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324 Northmoor

#### THIS MONTH'S COVER

Our cover this month is dedicated to the memory of our recently departed past president Chang Reynolds. He loved elephants and would have loved this photograph.

It shows the Sells Floto bulls in parade in San Francisco in 1914. Helen Brown rides the lead elephant. Advertising banners adorn all the animal's sides, and in the background can be seen banners carrying biographical information on the individual animals. The ones for Trilby and Snyder can be clearly seen. Pfening Archives.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

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DEILIGHATED MENDED	

#### REINSTATED MEMBER

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#### **CONVENTION UPDATE**

Plans continue for the 1987 Circus Historical Society convention which will be held in conjunction with the Great Circus Parade in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from July 8 to July 12. Festivities will begin on Wednesday, July 8, with the arrival of the Great American Circus in the morning and the Great Circus Train in the afternoon, and conclude on Sunday, July 12, with the Great Circus Parade. In between, a number of special features are planned, including historical presentations, discussions with various show luminaries, historic films, a circusiana auction, and a banquet. This agenda was a hit last year and the goal this year is to make the event even bigger and better.

The convention committee has already

contracted with the Marc Plaza Hotel to again be the offical convention headquarters. They are giving us the highly desirable rate of \$52 a night for a single and \$57 a night for a double. This is guite favorable for a big city hotel and only \$2 a night more than last year. A registration card for the convention and a reservation card for the Marc Plaza will be included in the March-April issue of Bandwagon. In the meantime, those wishing to give historical papers should contact Fred Pfening III at 2315 Haverford Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43220, to assure being scheduled on what will certainly be a heavy program. More details will appear in the March-April issue. Plan now-this is one you won't want to miss.

#### **DEPARTED MEMBERS**

The CHS recently lost a number of long time members. C. Gaylord Hartman died on January 24, 1987, Hartman was president of the CHS in 1968 and 1969, and also served as president of the Circus Model Builders. He was one of two individuals to have been president of two circus organizations.

Long time director Jim McRoberts died late in 1986. Past director Edward Cripps died on January 25, 1987. George H. Barlow III died on January 1, 1987; his model show has been on display at the Ringling Museum. John Wyatt, another long term member, died in January of 1987. All of the above had been members of the CHS for over thirty years.

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### Chang Reynolds

Artist, educator, naturalist and circus historian are wide and varied interests for a single individual. Those were some of the attributes of our good friend Charles W. "Chang" Reynolds.



Chang was born in Livonia, New York, and spent his childhood on a farm. It was here that he first began sketching animals, combining his artistic talent and his love and interest in animals. He journeyed fifty miles north of the family farm to begin his formal art education at the Rochester School of Technology. As frequently as possible he visited the Rochester Zoo to draw the animals, especially his favorite elephant, "Chang." This led to his fellow students nicknaming him after the bull.

In 1930 he traveled to California to continue his education at the Pasadena Junior College. Taking a part time job at the old Selig Zoo in Los Angeles to help pay his college education, he cared for and trained the animals, and drew and painted them as he found time. A number of the animal trainers at the zoo came from circuses. This association with circus people was a natural extension of his life long interest in animals and was the start of his interest in the circus and its history.

Reynolds received his bachelor's degree at U.C.L.A. and his master's at U.S.C. He joined the Pasadena School District in 1939 and taught there for two and one-half years before World War II. He married Mary Bellerue, also a teacher, in 1941. Returning after four years in the Navy, his advancement in the Pasadena schools began. He served as teacher, principal and audiovisual consultant prior to his retirement in 1977. He bought a cottage in Cayucos in 1962 and then moved from Pasadena to Los Osos in 1977 where he was able to spend full time as an artist. Freedom from the confinement of his job allowed him and Mary to travel through the West and to record its beauty through his paintings. His reputation began to grow and his paintings were in demand, and he became recognized for his circus, wildlife and ranch scenes. The climax of Reynold's artistic career came in May of 1986 when he staged "Circus Remembered," a one man show with over 80 pictures, lithographs, oils and acrylics of clowns, circus scenes and animals. The month long exhibit covered the full main floor of the San Luis Obispo Art Center and was attended by thousands of people.

Mary and Chang's travels to study and paint animals and birds took them to Kenya, Alaska, Canada, New Zealand and three times to Australia. He was an active member of the Audubon Society and was an expert in the identification of birds and had seen over 3,000 species.

During his lifetime his interest in the circus grew even greater. The Los Angeles area was abundant with circus fans. My early visits to the area in the 1950s were hosted by Chang and Mary, who would kindly drive in from Pasadena and take me along to the fan gatherings. This was the start of an over thirty year friendship. Chang became a member of the Circus Historical Society in March of 1959. His first Bandwagon article was about the 1923 tour of the John Robinson Circus and he illustrated it with sketches of Peter Taylor, Sam B. Dill, Abe Goldstein and Cheerful Gardner. It appeared in 1962. Since that time he was one of our more prolific writers, covering various shows, most recently the AI G. Barnes Circus in the 1920s. His final article in the Barnes series covering the 1928 season will appear shortly.

Chang Reynolds was elected president of the Circus Historical Society in January of 1970 and served for four years. In January 1978 he was elected a director of the CHS and has held that office since.

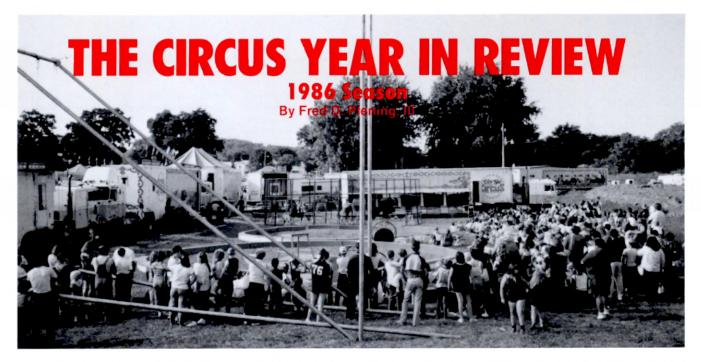
Chang's book Pioneer Circuses of the West was published in 1966. The book was illustrated by numerous pen and ink sketches of circus scenes by the author. It contained an index of circuses which toured the western states from 1849 to

The Reynolds file of circus elephants was one of the most extensive ever assembled. Circus historians were in constant touch with him regarding which elephants were with various circuses and his elephant notes were frequently quoted in articles.

In recent years traveling and painting occupied most of his time; however, he continued to find time to write for Bandwagon. Late in 1986 his health began to fail and he died following a heart attack on January 29, 1987, a week after his 73rd birthday. At the conclusion of his memorial service the organist played "The Man on the Flying Trapeze," a most fitting goodbye. Circus records were played in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

This wonderful person, Charles Wilber "Chang" Reynolds, will be forever remembered for his wonderful friendship and his extensive contribution to recording the history of the circus.

—Fred D. Pfening, Jr.



It was quite a year-one which was both exhilarating and troubling. In general circuses did terrific business in spite of ongoing problems such as the high cost of liability insurance and harassment from animal rights groups. Two far more serious problems were the increased state regulation of phone solicitation and tightened safety laws, both of which generated reams of negative publicity. In state after state indictments were sought against phone promoters who allegedly violated ordinances. Abuses of existing laws led many legislators to propose "get tough" legislation to further restrict the use of telemarking to sell circus tickets. Dozens of investigative newspaper articles disclosed that in some cases only a small percentage of the money raised through phone solicitation for a charitable cause actually went to the charity in question or to the sponsoring group and that many phone solicitors used deceptive sales methods. Even the Shrine, that most venerable of the service clubs, came in for criticism on this score. Insight, a publication of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, devoted two issues to the use of circuses as fund raisers by charities and fraternal and services clubs. The articles, which were distributed to Better Business Bureaus nationwide, detailed the pitfalls of sponsorship complete with numerous horror sto-

The implications of all this were frightening. The tougher legislation, negative publicity and the fact that some service organizations had indeed been burned made it more difficult for reputable showmen to book dates. It raised the chilling prospect of service and fraternal groups finding other ways to raise money which would have a catastrophic effect on the industry.

Also troublesome was a potential public backlash against legitimate circuses and phone promotions. The public generations

By August, the tent was gone, the bleachers were gone, and some of the semis and performers were gone, but the Toby Tyler Circus per-

ally did not delineate circuses and had no basis on which to differentiate between legal and illegal phone promotions. The consequences would be equally grave if the public stopped buying tickets over the telephone because of the preception that the circus was a scam and the sponsoring club or charity really didn't benefit. These twin specters were a real threat to the industry as circuses and phone promotors received more bad press in 1986 than in any year in recent memory.

Some states began strictly enforcing safety laws regarding circuses after accidents at shows caused injuries. Calls were made for tougher codes and more rigorous inspection of circus equipment. This created serious problems for troupes in the East, and led to the possibility of prohibitive regulation in the fur-

The Toby Tyler Circus's semi trailers were brightly painted. Tom Parkinson photo.

sisted. It is shown in Ohio where a few hundred lawn chairs were the seating forcing many patrons to stand. Fred Pfening Jr. photo.

ture. Much of the litigation, proposed legislation and negative publicity concerning both promotion and safety resulted from the Toby Tyler Circus' soap opera of a season.

The Toby Tyler Circus had the kind of year of which novels are written-if your name is Thomas Duncan and the novel is Gus the Great. After starting with high expectations, the show's season quickly turned sour, so bad in fact that by season's end owner Richard Garden called the tour "the most unbelievable, the worst in circus history." Garden's lament was barely exaggerated as Toby Tyler's season brought to mind two rolling heat waves of the past, Ben Davenport's Dailey Bros. and Fred Buchanan's Robbins Bros. "Other circuses hate us," John Marrone, a horse trainer on the show, was quoted as saying as the show was condemned by virtually the entire industry for its numerous alleged violations of state phone solicitation and safety







The Toby Tyler ticket wagon had a jungle scene on one side and a bandwagon on the other. Tom Parkinson photo.

laws and the huge amount of negative publicity they generated.

Toby Tyler looked great at its Sebring, Florida opening on March 31 as the program included chariot races, two flying acts doing triples, three 8 horse liberty acts, three teeterboard acts, a pair of trained hippos, lots of elephants, a mixed animal act with two camels and two llamas and a nine piece band. It looked magnificent on the lot with a six pole big top and Hall and Christ's big side show, and a number of new, brightly painted semi-trailers. It was, in the words of one observer, "a very, very impressive show if one didn't know how a show really runs." Problems soon surfaced. The new seat wagons, which cost close to \$100,000. didn't work and the physical equipment proved so unwieldy that the next five days were blown replacing the seat wagons with wooden bleachers and getting the show moved. During the interim the rhino escaped and was killed after tranquilizer darts didn't stop him. From the start the canvas crew had difficulty getting the big top up and down with the result that many appearances were sidewalled or open aired.

Trouble occurred at Langhorne, Pennyslvania on May 9 when the bleachers collapsed, injuring nine people. Much more serious was another collapse at Greenport, New York, about 25 miles south of Albany, on June 16. The stands fell about 6:00 P.M. just as the performance began, apparently after a clown told people in the bleachers to clear a path down the center which caused the structure to sway and then fall. Reports varied, but somewhere between 60 to 80 spectators were injured. The sponsor. the Hudson, New York Boys Club, wanted to cancel the performance because of the wet lot, but circus personnel allegedly told them that the exhibition could go on as dryer ground on the same location was found. The big top was not raised at the stand because of the lot's wetness.

Two days after the accident the New York state Department of Labor charged

the show with four violations of state safety laws which stated that the circus had failed to file plans and specs for the tents and bleachers with the state Department of Labor, that no itinerary of the show's route in New York was furnished to the department, that the show did not provide side and rear guard rails on the bleachers, and that code specs on the bleachers regarding weight loads, swaying and wind resistance were not met. The New York state Attorney General's office also determinded that the show had played some dates in Pennsylvania with a forged safety inspection certificate. The next day the state obtained a court order prohibiting the show from doing business in New York. In the lawsuit the state Attorney General stated that the circus had told local officals that it had a million dollars of liability insurance when in fact coverage had been terminated on May 28. All of this received extensive newspaper coverage.

After Greenport, the season was a nightmare. Many dates were blown as local officals prohibited the show from their areas. On some occasions the show would pull on to a lot only to be escorted off by police. This effort was aided and abetted by a package of clippings on the show's safety and promotional problems which was sent to newspapers along the route. Hundreds of folding lawn chairs were purchased for seating as the bleachers were for the most part abandoned. Other circuses in the East felt the wrath of local and state officals who stringently enforced safety measures which caused them no end of problems, in some cases forcing the cancellation long booked dates at the last minute. Some operators dropped the word circus from their titles, using hippodrome or follies in its stead. Even Toby Tyler changed its name to Tom Mix at some towns, covering the Toby Tyler lettering on the trucks with brown paper. The incident also led to calls to tighten existing safety laws regarding circuses.

The show got behind in salaries and gas money and personnel started leaving. It suffered from high turnover of department heads and at times gave the appearence of having no management. Late arrivals were common and the pro-

Chris Christ turns the tip on the Toby Tyler Circus' side show. Fred Pfening Jr. photo.

gram was John Robinsoned more often than not toward season's end. In August the driver of the semi carrying the center poles got lost causing more blue sky dates. Later one man was killed and another seriously injured when the pole truck was hit by a train at a railroad crossing. The wreck bent the center poles causing the show to eschew the big top for the rest of the season. The show shrunk physically as Ward Hall's side show left for fair dates, and a number of semis were sent back home.

The bleachers collapsed for at least the third and final time in Rural Retreat, Virginia in September injuring one person. A promotor allegedly ran off with the Jackson, Tennessee receipts soon after. When the show finally died in Nashville on September 21, it seemed like a mercy killing. Most people on the show learned the year was over when the band struck up "Auld Lang Syne" at the end of the performance.

Incredibly, alleged violations of state fundraising and phone solicitation laws posed even bigger problems for the show. During 1986 eleven states had either filed lawsuits or were investigating Toby Tyler or its promotors. Among the specific charges, according to the Lancaster, Pennsylvania Intelligencer Journal, were that the circus or phone promotors for show failed to register and file disclosure documents with state officals, altered contracts without the consent of the sponsoring charity, used deceptive and misleading methods to make advance telephone sales, and urged contributors to give money to send a specified number of handicapped or underprivileged children to the circus, but made only token efforts to invite such children. Vermont, for example, sought restitution and penalities exceeding \$50,000 against the show for allegedly "selling far more tickets for handicapped and underprivileged kids to go to the circus than could be accounted for in receipts that they actually gave the tickets away," according to the Albany (New York) Union.

Richard Garden told the Sarasota He-

rald Tribune that he and the Toby Tyler Circus should not be sued as the alleged violations were committed by solicitation firms in which he or the show had no interest. He was quoted as saying that the show sold the dates to promotional firms who in turn sold tickets over the phone. In a separate lawsuit, Garden was charged in January 1987 with 16 counts of assault and reckless endangerment in connection with allegations that he personally ordered the bleachers erected on the muddy lot in Greenport, New York on June 16 in spite of warnings from show personnel that it was unsafe. This saga will continue in 1987 as Garden vowed to put Toby Tyler back on the road with better seats, better management, and better promotion.

With few exceptions the circuses which earned their money under canvas crammed and jammed 'em from Maine to California, returning to quarters with record or near record profits as the strong economy pushed up grosses while the decade's lowest fuel prices trimmed costs. Among the three big tenters, Carson and Barnes did great business in celebrating its golden anniversary season. Starting out from Paris, Texas on March 29 the show headed west to California reaching the Golden State at the end of April and staying until the end of May. June was spent circling back east through the Big Sky and Plains states, reaching Iowa on June 29 and Illinois on the 4th of July. The big Milwaukee date held in conjunction with the Great Circus Parade was something of a bust as rain kept crowds away all four days. The show played the Midwest through late September before heading into Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Texas before closing in the winter quarters town of Hugo, Oklahoma on November 9. Just under 15,000 miles were covered in 20 states with the 33 days in California being the most time in one state.

The largest thing that moved every night, Carson and Barnes carried 46 company owned steering wheels including 32 semis and trailers. A new 400' by

Carson and Barnes had the most extensive menagerie on the road. Shown here is the giraffe and hippo. Fred Pfening Jr. photo.



Carson and Barnes ad for La Crosse, Wisconsin. The reference to "the real circus" refers to George Carden which appeared in La Crosse a week earlier. Note use of Milwaukee parade in ad. Bill Johnson collection.

145' tent arrived in early July; it held up to 3300. A well run organization with little turnover in key positions and many repeat dates, the show's revenues were up about 20% over the previous year. The advance press was beefed up and two advance clowns were put on the pay roll. The troupe also used lithographs and an eight page color courier.

The performance used five rings backed up by Charlie Stevenson and his musicans. While the flying return department didn't feature any quads, it did have three acts which did the triple. Pat White put 9 lions and tigers and one ligar

through their paces, and Donnie Carr bossed 22 elephants, 19 Asian and 3 African females. Other animals included 35 horses and ponies, a giraffe, three zebras, a hippo, a rhino, two camels, three llamas, and an assortment of reptiles for the midway.

The season marked Dores R. Miller's 50th as a show owner, a remarkable achievement in a physically taxing business. Illness prevented him from making the entire year on the road but he and wife Isla joined the show in early June, staying until the end of August. Immigration problems vexed the show early in the year as difficulties arose getting visas for the numerous Mexican performers. Time magazine gave Carson and Barnes a nice write-up in May. General manager Jim Judkins published a first class route book full of information and photos. many in color. The book, with text in both English and Spanish, was something of a classic, full of inside jokes and sly comments. It undoubtedly will give historians as yet unborn a superb picture of what it was like to be in the circus business in the 1980s.

The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus, owned by John W. Pugh and E. Douglas Holwadel, played its traditional Eastern and Southern route, opening in Florida in late March and after working its way north along the Atlantic seaboard reaching the promised land of New Jersey in late May. After summering in New York, Pennsylvania, and New England, going as far north as Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the troupe worked its way back home through the deep South. After a number of dates in Florida the show concluded the season at Eustis on November 21. The circus had to blow contracted dates in Connecticut because of stiff state liability insurance regulations, and after the Toby Tyler bleacher accident many Long Island property owners withdrew their permission for Beatty-Cole to exhibit on their land. Both incidents caused last minute re-routing, and cost the show serious money. Nevertheless, the year was quite successful.

Beatty-Cole moved on 24 show owned

Carson and Barnes used this wagon and hitch as an uptown bally. Joe Fleming photo.







Midway of Beatty-Cole in June. George Bingamann photo.

vehicles, and appeared under a 300' by 130' Leaf big top costing \$165,000 which was raised for the first time in Philadelphia in May. Unfortunately the tent had problems and was returned to the manufacturer. After being reworked it was used during the season's final weeks. The show gave a neat and clean appearance and offered a strong performance. New acts included Josip Marcan and a first rate cat act; the Osorio brothers on the high wire and trampoline, and Rosaire and Crampton's horse act. Billy McCabe was the new producing clown, and Mark Ellis, another newcomer, led the eight piece band. Missing from the line up for the first time in years was Dave Hoover and his cats; however, Fred Logan, longtime elephant boss, was back supervising nine elephants.

The show played their winterquarters town of Deland, Florida on April 3 for the local Rotary Club. While the majority of dates were under auspices, including the big Philadlphia run for the Shrine, this aggregation had a goodly number of unsponsored stands. Sarasota, Florida was contracted for Holloween. Management figured the stand was a sure clunker because of competition from begger's night, but they did surprisingly well performing before an audience which included numerous showfolks from the area. In all, the show travelled over 10,000 miles to 110 cities in 16 states. During the 239 day tour only two dates were lost, one caused by a flooded lot, the other by a hurricane.

Circus Vargas played a nearly cross continental route. After starting in Southern California in mid-January the show made its traditional stands in that area through June 3. Eschewing Oregon and Washington the show jumped 1700 miles to Calgary. From there they moved hard east stopping only at Edmonton and Winnipeg before reaching Ontario and Quebec where extensive engagements were made in Toronto and Montreal. By early September Vargas was back in the U. S. A. for a month around Chicago after which it headed to Texas and a number of dates in the Houston area in October

By all accounts business was excellent. Show got \$17.50 tops for tickets, although children were admitted free. Spill over



Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. newspaper ad used in Sarasota. Jim Dunwoody collection.

from Disneyland's Circus Fantasy media blitz was stated as one reason for 22% increase in revenues in Los Angeles area early in the year. Crowds were also big in Canada. Vargas reportedly spent over a million dollars on marketing for the Southern California tour alone, setting up a Spanish language division to tap that important segment of the population. Sign of the times department: show gave a benefit for AIDS research in Los Angeles on February 14.

Midway of the Great American Circus. Fred Pfening Jr. photo.

Physical changes on the show included a new ticket wagon. The midway had a moon bounce, pony sweep, petting zoo, clown face paint, reptile show, and a concession trailer. One source had 13 elephants in the inventory, another placed the figure at nine. The performance was similar to past years, although veteran Wally Naghtin and his bears were gone. No band was carried as all music came from a sophisticated tape machine in a trailer outside the tent.

Allan Hill's Great American Circus did not publish its route with the result that details of its tour were limited. What was available revealed that the show was in Georgia in March, Pennyslvania in June, New Jersey in July, New York in August, the Midwest in September, the South in October, and closed in its winterquarters town of Sarasota on November 10. By all accounts, the show coined

Great American exhibited in three rings under an 80' foot round top Leaf tent with a one 40' and three 20' middle sections at the beginning of the year. The tent size was increased later in the season. The show moved behind eight show owned steering wheels. The midway had a pony sweep, a moon bounce, an elephant ride, a snake show, two kiddie rides, and three novelty or concession stands. The use of carnival rides on circus midways as typified by Great America's use of them seemed on the upswing in 1986. While the rides were understandable additions as profit centers and smart business, the carny atmosphere in the front yard was nevertheless disheartening to purists.

Great American experienced managerial problems during the year. Don Provost started off as manager. He was followed by Hoxie Tucker who came out of retirement in July but stayed only a short while. He was replaced by Jim Ridenour who finished the season. The show carried three elephants, and the performance also featured Digger the boxing kangaroo, and the Suarez Loyal Repensky riding act. Jack Jackson led the four piece band.

Tragedy struck the Roberts Bros. Circus in July when owner Robert Earl died of cancer after a lenghty illness. The show started in Florida in late March, and worked its way north through Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina in March. June found the troupe in Penn-



sylvania, and July and August in New York, New England and Pennsylvania. No other route information was available.

Roberts Bros. was carried in 7 show owned trucks including three semis and trailers. The big top was a 150' long by 60' wide push pole type. The performance took place in three rings and used a two piece band. Brian LaPalme was the announcer. Animals with this organization included seven ponies, three goats, an elephant, a horse, a sheep, and a pig. The midway had a calliope, novelty stand, a pony ride, petting zoo, elephant ride, snake show, elephant skinned dog show, space walk, and a conncession stand. Because of the stiff Connecticut liability insurance regulations the show was sidewalled in that state. One date was blown because of the lack of a big top as the sponsor backed out.

The Big Apple Circus, the non-profit tenter out of New York City, opened its summer season in Brooklyn in April, and ended it outside Washington, D. C. in September. Dates in Boston, Philadelphia and about ten smaller towns were made in between. This troupe had unusual sponsors such as the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The summer performance featured veterans Katja Schuman, wife of the show's founder Paul Binder, Benny Williams and Anna May the elephant, the Flying Gaonas and the truly funny house clowns. Newcomers included Vanessa Prater, a Canadian group called Lisa and the Trampoline Guys, and a juggling team called the Dynamotion Jugglers.

The winter season under a tent at Lincoln Center in Manhattan began in mid-November and ran until early January. The Buckles Woodcock elephants played this one as did Denis Lacombe, a talented clown from Quebec, and Johnny Martin and his comedy dog who were making their sawdust debut. Big Apple did excellent business with a number of buy outs during the winter run which was a bit longer than previous years. Ticket prices ran from \$10 to \$30 with no children's rate which in New York was mid-priced entertainment.

The Cirque du Soleil, the Canadian version of Big Apple, was one of the more interesting shows on tour. Formed in 1984 with a grant from the Canadian and Quebec Provincial governments, the

Semi trailer on Roberts Bros. Circus. Walter Heist photo.



Newspaper ad for the Big Apple Circus' winter stand at Lincoln Center in New York City. Author's collection

show had its roots in street theater with many of the performers starting their careers on sidewalks. Wintering in Montreal, the organization had strong links to that city's French-Canadian community as many of the performers were of French heritage and their program was printed in both French and English. Traveling on 15 trucks, the show played dates lasting from a week to a month and a half in eight cities including Vancouver, Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, and Toronto. The season lasted from April to September. At year's end a tour of California was in the works.

The exhibition was given in one ring under an Italian big top which sat 1500. The two and a half hour performance was theatrically produced with special effects such as unusual lighting and a fog machine. The performers were all young with an average age of 25, general manager and co-founder Guy Laliberte was all of 26. Acts included fire eating, juggling, acrobatics, and teeterboard, all backed by a five piece band. A special feature was an acrobatic group from the People's Republic of China, a la Ringling. Another was a balloon accession, a

la Floyd King. While the Cirque du Soleil received much public acclaim, it was not a circus which fellow Canadian Al G. Barnes would have approved of as not a single animal appeared in the ring.

The Kelly-Miller Circus, co-owned and managed by David Rawls, started off from its winter quarters town of Hugo, Oklahoma on March 22 touring the deep South on its way to the Mid-Atlantic states in late May. After moving fast across Pennsylvania, the show reached Ohio on June 10. The summer was spent in the Midwest, and September in the Plains states. After traveling in Missouri and Oklahoma in October the season ended in Coalgate, Oklahoma on October 25 after covering about 12,000 miles.

Kelly-Miller played the small towns of 5000-15,000 and had a nut of about \$4000 a day. The 90 minute performance was typical small-show fare under a three year old Scola Teloni top which sat 1500. Tent was 190' by 90'. New equipment included an elephant trailer for the three bulls. and a cookhouse trailer which doubled as a sleeper. Five semis and trailers and two pick-ups with trailers hauled the properties. The midway had a concession trailer, a moon bounce, an elephant ride, a pony sweep, and a combination side show and menagerie. The latter was housed in a 90' by 60' top which contained a small elephant, a petting zoo, three camels, a llama, a fire eater, a magician, a Punch & Judy show, and a blade box. Among the show's advertising was a four page courier, a throw back to an earlier era

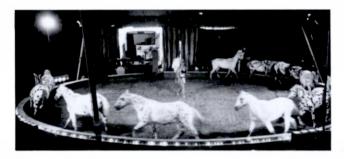
When the show played Ann Arbor, Michigan on June 27-29 to benefit a local health center a parade was given and a special program printed. A dinner dance for 400 after a performance was a highlight of the engagement. In reviewing the show and parade, the local paper commented: "Downtown seemed gripped in a time warp as enchantments of bygone days filled the streets," certainly a graceful statement on the appeal of this show.

Franzen Bros. Circus opened with a special date for the Chamber of Commerce in Eustis, Florida in mid-Februrary, and then re-opened for the regular season in early March. Playing mostly in the Midwest and the Mid-Atlantic regions, the show traveled over 11,000 miles in 17 states, all east of the

Front yard of Kelly Miller Circus in Ohio. Fred Pfening Jr. photo.









Liberty act on Franzen Bros. Tom Parkinson photo.

Mississippi, before closing in Groveland, Florida on December 6. This one had a tough season as rumors circulated throughout the summer that it had closed because of liability insurance troubles or lack of an effective advance. While the troupe apparently laid off for a few days, it finished the season.

A neat one ring trick which gave a fine performance for a show its size, Franzen improved his physical equipment as he does each year by adding a new lighting system, a concession trailer, a camel and llama, three GMC trucks, and in May, a new Italian big top. Owner Wayne Franzen worked ten cats, the camel and llama, and the elephant act. Other animal acts included dressage, a mathematical horse, and liberty ponies.

Ford Bros. Circus, headed by John "Gopher" Davenport, apparently had a rough year. After returning from the Hawaii in mid-February the show exhibited in the Southwest and Plains states before moving into the Pacific Northwest in June. In early July the aggregation jumped up to Alaska where stayed until at least August 25, after which no information was available.

Billed as the Texas Sesquicentennial Circus in some Alaska towns, the show traveled by truck, ferry and plane in the 49th state. The troupe covered a huge amount of real estate up north, appearing both in the Juneau area in the southeastern part of the state, and on the Seward Penninsula in the northwest. They even performed above the Arctic Circle in late August. In Nome, the show exhibited in the local recreation center after bad weather prevented the use of the lot.

During the tour of the lower 48 states, the big top was reportedly a new Bruno top, an 80' with a 40' middle. Taped music backed up the performance which apparently wasn't too strong or too long, and while three rings were used most of the action took place in the center ring. The show carried nine elephants, but in many towns only one performed. Observers noted the poor condition of the animals at some stands.

It seems that each year one circus becomes a media darling, and this season it was Circus Flora, organized in Camden, South Carolina by Big Apple veteran Ivor David Balding. Remarkably, it received write-ups in the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, the New York Times and People. Named after the troupe's three year old plank walking African elephant, the show called itself "an authentic recreation of an early 19th century circus." which basically meant that the performers wore 19th century costumes. Framed as a non-profit corporation, Circus Flora was a tented one ringer offering a high class performance which tried to appeal to a more sophisticated audience than most circuses. Besides Flora, features included Delilah Wallanda on the high wire, and James Zoppe and his Percherons. The show premiered at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina in May, and after a few spot dates closed the summer season with ten days in Denver in early July. A Christmas run in Los Angeles was scheduled.

The Culpepper and Merriweather Great Combined Circus was the smallest show moving every day. Opening in Arizona in late February, it toured that state and California extensively through early June when it went into New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Missouri on its way to the Midwest for the summer. After exhibiting in Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa from mid-June through early September, the show jumped over 600 miles to Trenton, Nebraska on September 13. After an appearance in nearby Benkleman, Nebraska the next day, the troupe made a couple of 500 mile moves back into Arizona. The remainder of the season found the show in that state, Nevada, and California, closing at Yucca Valley, California on October 13.

A one ring show under a 50' by 70' top,

Canvas truck and horse trailer on the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus. Tom Parkinson photo.

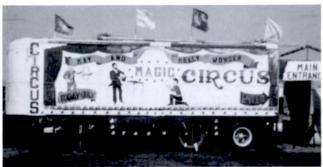
Bicycle act on Circus Flora, Note old time costumes. Jake Conover photo.

the performance was backed by Merle Evans records. Acts included typical small show fare such as juggling, fire eating, trained dogs, goats, and ponies. The routine went over big in the small towns on the route, many of which had not had a circus in years. The whole thing moved behind six steering wheels which equalled the number of people on the show. Everyone from manager Red Johnson on down doubled and tripled in brass which included driving a rig. National Geographic followed the show for a few days in September filming it for the Explorer TV show. The segment was scheduled to air in early 1987. At season's end Culpepper and Merriweather acquired its first elephant, a baby African, from Mike Cecere, and purchased a larger tent, a Kelly Miller discard.

Chuck Koenekamp's Kay Bros. Circus opened May 2 at Bokoshe, Oklahoma and played many dates booked for the Jefferson and Davis Circus which didn't get past the letterhead stage. In June the show reopened as Kay and Kelly at Porum, Oklahoma, and closed in Vinta, Oklahoma in early November. It used a bale ring type tent, an 80' round top with a 40' middle section, which sat 2000 around its single ring. Moving on 5 semis, the show carried a five in one side show with a rubber girl, blockhead, fire eater, nail board and magic. The kid show did well as 95% of the total crowd usually went to it. Last season was this outfit's best year ever at the box office.

Days after Alfred Vidbel started the third season of his Vidbel's Old Time Circus near Albany in mid-May, he suffered





Semi trailer on the Kay and Kelly Wonder Circus. Chuck Keonekamp photo.

extensive injuries when he was knocked down and trampled by his elephant Daffodil. In spite of this mishap the tour continued in New York through July and in New Jersey in August and early September. This one moved on three semis and had a three piece band. Charles Moyer doubled as manager and band leader during Vidbel's absence. George Barreda's three small African bulls made up the elephant corp after the Vidbel trio were sold to Bobby Moore. After Barreda left the show, Army McGuire and his elephants were engaged. The big top was an 80' with a 40' middle. The midway had a petting zoo and concession trailer.

This outfit had to blow a 4th of July date at Port Jarvis, New York when the state Department of Labor made them strike the already set up big top because drawings of it had not been cleared with them beforehand. About a week of stands were lost until drawings were OK'ed. This hassle was the result of Toby Tyler's bleacher problems in New York.

John and Bety Reid's Reid Bros. Circus had a May and June tour through Oregon, Washington and the Big Sky states, appearing both indoors and under canvas, playing mainly for police groups with a few small town Shrine dates. The tent was a 90' with three 40s from Bruno. Billy Barton came out of retirement for this tour; the Bucky Steele elephants and the Flying Condors were also in evidence. In September and October the show made tented dates in Texas. John Schoonbeck's quaintly named Friendly Bros. Circus played in New York and New England in the summer under a new vinyl bit top. Schoonbeck had a date cancelled in a town near where the Toby Tyler bleachers fell.

David Mobbs' Circus USA made four shopping malls under canvas in the Miami area in October. He received lots of ink after signing Bertalina Kazakova and Nikolai Nikolski, the former high wire artists who had defected earlier in the year from the Moscow State Circus and consequently became famous for fifteen minutes. Ringling's Kenneth Feld offered to provide them with rigging, living expenses, and a place to stay in Vencie with the understanding they would audition for the Greatest Show on Earth in November,



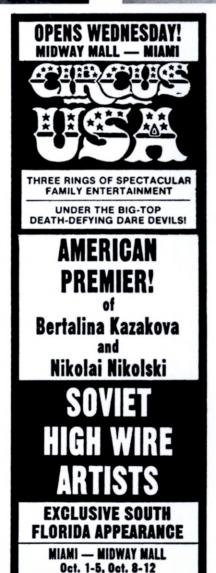
Attractively painted truck on the Liebel Family Circus. Jake Conover

family had their Circo D'Carlo in the Los Angeles area from July until at least October, perhaps longer. A one ringer under canvas, the show was directed at the area's huge Spanish speaking population as many of the acts, such as the Flying Carceres trapeze troupe, were Hispanic and all announcements were made in Spanish. Joe King's Clown Bros. Circus, a generic title if there ever was one, played five weeks of under canvas dates in Texas starting in late January, after which it was converted into an indoor school show.

The big news from Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey had to do with diversification, a lot of bull, and some Chinese acrobats. The Greatest Show on Earth moved into a number of new areas in 1986 starting with a production at Disneyland from January through March called Circus Fantasy which was made up of a number of free acts and clowns scattered around the park and a circus parade. The acts included Ricky and Debbie Wallenda on the high wire, Jim Hall and his bears, Bill and Trudy Strong and their horses and dogs, the Diano elephants, and the Munoz cannon. The Bell wagon and the Swan bandwagon from the Circus World Museum were among the wagons in the parade.

Later in the year a new division was created called Festival Events which helped sponsor and provided circus acts for music promotions in Memphis in June, St. Paul in July and Montreal in August; and for food shows featuring local cuisine called a Taste of Minnesota in Minneapolis in July, and a Taste of Colorado in Denver in August. At July's Memphis Musicfest, for example, the Ringling organization booked thrill acts such as the Winns, the Centrons, and Douglas MacValley as well as a half hour clown show, a magic performance, a skateboard exhibition and a petting zoo with elephant rides. A million dollar investment was made in these events, according to Ringling's Allen Bloom who added that they planned six to eight such dates in 1987.

A third new area for Ringling was a series of video tapes on various circus topics including recent performances, how-to tapes on circus skills and historic



Newspaper ad for Circus USA featuring the Russian high wire team which had defected earlier in the year. Arnold Brito collection.

but the deal fell through as the couple felt they could do better financially as an independant act. The newly minted capitalists received a standing ovation after their first performance in strongly anticommunist Miami. The Carlos Farfan





Finale of the Blue show at St. Petersburg, Florida. Jim Dunwoody photo.

footage of old time circuses. While the exact subjects were vague at year's end, reports indicated they would be available in

During the summer Ringling bought the Tony Diano five elephant act solely to acquire Tommy, the giant male Asian tusker who had been a fixture in the Diano act ever since he was acquired from Ben Davenport in the early 1950s. Tommy started in show business as a punk on Davenport's Dailey Bros. Circus back in the 1940s, and has had an exceptionally long and, for a male Asian elephant, uneventful career since then. At the turn of the new year Tommy re-emerged as "King Tusk, the Largest Land Mammal Traveling the Earth Today," and the star of Red unit. Veteran Diano trainer Lee Keener moved to Ringling-Barnum with Tommy who will be hauled in a specially constructed semi trailer.

The Blue unit's big feature was the Shanghai acrobats from mainland China. Actually two troupes of acrobats were with the show as the agreement with the Chinese govenment stipulated that the performers could stay in this country no longer than six months at a stretch. The changeover came in Philadelphia in June. At the June 11 matinee the entire Chinese contingent appeared on the bill for the only time during the season. Owner Kenneth Feld and his family were in the audience for this glorious moment in American circusing. A number of fabulous floats were created with Chinese themes for the spec. One suspects future historians may study these wagons as assiduously as the Five Graces and other relics are today.

Among other new acts on the show were an Arab tumbling group, a two man wheel of death, a trained buffalo, a three person high wire act and a double shot cannon act. Returning stars were the Wade Burck and his 15 white tigers, Alex Gautier and 21 elephants, and the Flying Vasquez whose star Miguel Vas-



Interesting ad for both units of Ringling-Barnum at Venice, Florida. Jim Dunwoody collection.

quez completed eight quads in a row in Sacramento.

Opening in the winter quarters arena in Venice, Florida on January 2, the Blue unit played Madison Square Garden for a little over two months. All reports indicated the show did good business overall with tremendous houses at some West Coast cities. Sacramento and Fresno were straight sell outs and Portland gave the show its best business ever in that city. A menagerie was added at the season's last two dates at the Meadowlands and the Nassau Coliseum in late November and early December. After the Nassau date the show train moved to Miami

One of the new Chinese themed spec floats on the Ringling-Barnum Blue unit. Jim Dunwoody photo.

where it laid off for about three weeks awaiting the start of the 1987 campaign on December 26, bypassing the Venice quarters. It was the first time ever a Ringling unit didn't go into winterquarters at the end of a season. The train consisted of 44 cars, 4 stocks, 25 coaches, 2 concession supply cars, 1 double deck car, and 12 flats. In March two cars were derailed coming into Baltimore and on May 26 both show trains were briefly parked side by side in the New York City rail vard.

Unicorn-A-Mania and its attendent heat from animal loving groups continued on the Red unit. This year's craziness began in Daytona Beach when authorities, acting upon a complaint by the local Humane Society, seized the unicorn to determine if its horn had been altered by surgery. Officals said the circus may have violated a 1921 state law which prohibited the display of malformed or disfigured animals which was passed to discourage the intentional maining of animals for exhibition purposes. usual machinations went on as the Humane Society accused the circus of crueltv and the circus accused the Humane Society of being spoilsports. Mercifully, the issue died out in about two weeks without any charges being filed. Allen Bloom unquestionably had the best line of the entire affair when he said the seizure and examination of the unicorn had inflicted mental cruelty upon the beast, leaving it depressed and without its appetite. "It has even turned up its nose at one of its favorite delicacies, rose petals," Bloom moaned, presumably with a straight face.

The Red unit's program was the same as the previous year with Gunther Gebel-Williams doing a number of turns. Other acts of note were the Flying Espanas, Sabu, the Passo brothers, and the Urias troupe. The route had some new towns on it; Columbus, Ohio was played for the first time in twelve years, and LaCrosse, Wisconsin for the first time since 1955.





Ringling-Barnum turned the selling of concessions into an art form. A novelty stand on the Red unit is shown here in Columbus, Ohio. Fred Pfening Jr. photo.

The show traveled on 42 cars including 10 flats, 1 bi-level car, 1 tunnel car, 4 stocks, and 26 coaches.

Ringling-Barnum made a nice publicity touch in April when *USA Today* gave the organization a page and a half with six color photos and published both shows' routes. A July *Sports Illustrated* article about Wade Burck was more positive ink. An unflattering and unfair piece criticizing the living conditions on the train and the education provided children of show personnel appeared in *Newsday* late in the spring and was syndicated nationally.

Circuses were part of the fair scene as sawdust presentations were fixtures at both big and small fairs. Most shows were booked by the fair and exhibited either under canvas or in the grandstand at no charge. The Herriott Trained Animal Circus made a series of dates as a tented free show at fairs in New York, Massachusetts, Virginia, Vermont, and North Carolina from June through late September. Owner John Herriott and his family put on most of the performance which was styled after the turn of the century dog and pony shows. Additionally, wife Mary Ruth Herriott managed the free outdoor circus at Kid's World Amusement Park in Longbranch, New Jersey from June 2l to September 1. Herriott also produced the indoor Summer Circus in an old power plant in Baltimore from mid-June until Labor Day. Features at the Power Plant Circus were Norbu, the almost human gorilla, and Popcorn the high diving dog. The canine set a world record when he jumped from a height of 31 feet into the arms of his trainer Gary "Yo Yo the Clown" Noel during the run. The leap landed them a spot on the "stupid pet tricks" segment of the David Letterman TV show.

The Liebel Family Circus, headed by Tomi Liebel, made a series of one dayers in Alabama in late March through early May. Later it was the free show at a festival in New Martinsville, West Virginia in August, and at the York, Pennsylvania fair in September. This one used a

one ring big top seating 600. Acts included Richter riding troupe, an ex-Ringling-Barnum act. The elephant, named Delilah, was lost to pneumonia during first half of year.

George Hanneford's Hanneford Family Circus had fairs in Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia, South Carolina, and Florida from August through November. Previous to that he worked his elephants on Shrine and other dates. His circus was a free attraction at the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville in mid-August using a tent approximately 200' by 200' which sat about 2500. The performance lasted an hour and was given three times a day. Dave and Judy Twomey's Happytime Circus did a number of California fairs including the big Los Angeles County Fair at Pomona in September under a 140' x 100' tent. The 45 minute exhibition was given in one ring. Happytime had some odd ball bookings such as a 4th of July date at the Rose Bowl as part of Pasadena's 100th anniversary celebration. The 1986 conspicuous consumption award went to a wealthy California couple who hired the show along with a carnival for their seven year old's birthday. The family reportedly spent \$75,000 for the two day affair.

Corky and June Plunkett had their circus, variously titled the Original All-American Circus or Olde Tyme American Circus at Texas fair dates in the spring and fall under either 90' top with three 40' middles or the blue sky. The Plunkett family put on most of the performance, although the Karen Cristiani elephants were also on the bill. They also had a school show out in New England during the summer, and a Christmas show called Santa's Circus in Texas auds and gyms in December. Tom Wilds' Sterling Circus had some fair work in September, and some indoor dates in March in Oregon. The Wilds family did most of the performance as Tom Wilds had a liberty pony act and clowned with his son, wife Jan had a llama and goat act, and daughter Anne had a unicycle act.

The Swan Bros. Circus, a small affair owned by Andy and Mike Swan, played a number of small fairs and festivals in California from April through December. Heidi Wendany's Funs A Poppin' Circus made the Indio, California Date

Red unit train in Columbus, Ohio in June. Fred Pfening Jr. photo.

Festival in February, and some fair bookings later in the year. Scott Tailor's Scott's Continental Circus out of Chatham, Ontario had his dog and pony show at Canadian fairs during the summer. He also carried a petting zoo. Pete and Giselle Wood had their Circus Fantasy on the midway of Jimmy Miller's Shows of Tomorrow Carnival at fairs with the Bones Craig elephants and the Lipko chimps. Pat Guthrie revived his Jules and Beck Circus from a couple of years ago as an attraction at four Kentucky fairs in September and October.

One of the more interesting developments in recent years has been the return of the menagerie and petting zoo as an attraction. While they predominantly played fairs, they also made indoor and mall dates. Perhaps the biggest of this type show was Commerford's Pet Expo, owned by R. W. Commerford of Goshen, Connecticut. He had nine indoor dates early in the year in the East, and an extensive fair season from May to November with two units. The 125 exotic animals under his direction included Dickie the giraffe of Ringling-Barnum fame, elephants, camels, and zebras. The show also carried a merry go round, and two kiddie rides. Stan Kramien's Hollywood Animal Circus made one dayers in California, presumably in malls. The Endangered Species Animal Show, owned by the Engesser family, appeared in shopping centers with three exotic cats, a zebra, a llama, snakes, monkeys, and a four year old African elephant named Roxy. The Bob Jones Petting Zoo from Mechanicsville, Pennsylvania appeared at about 30 fairs with camels, llamas and a variety of barnyard animals such as chickens and goats. Jones, a noted llama breeder, was once the announcer for the diving horses at Atlantic City's Steel

Missing from the roll in 1986 was the long running Dr. Pepper Circus at the Texas State Fair. The circus was cancelled after 24 years when the soft drink manufacturer decided not to back the Gil Gray produced show, leaving a number of acts to scramble for bookings.

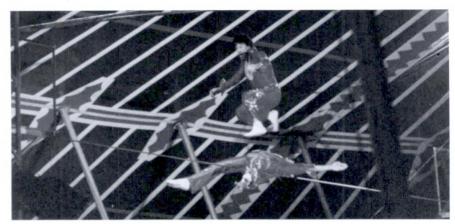
Shrine circuses continued as the backbone of the business. Indeed, if local temples pulled out of sponsoring circuses en masse, the industry would see a depression which would make the 1930s look like a small downturn in employment. Such a possibility was raised in an Associated Press story late in the year which indicated that only a small fraction of the money taken in by Shrine circuses actually went to their famed childrens' hospitals. The national Shrine told all temples to use a disclaimer in their circus programs which read: "Proceeds from this Shrine circus benefit Shrine operations only. They do not benefit Shriners' hospitals for crippled children."

Tommy and Struppi Hanneford's Royal Hanneford Circus opened its season for the Flint, Michigan Shriners in early January. This date featured Jorge Barreda and his lions, Dolly Jacobs on the Roman rings, the Arturo Gaona flying act, Wally Eastwood juggling, and the Wozynacks doing teeterboard. The elephant department was especially strong with Lou Ann Jacobs and the Barreda elephants, Benny Williams and Anna May, and Bill Woodcock and his elephants. Hanneford's Shrine unit had a showboat themed spec.

The Hannefords had as many as three units on the road at once during the year, calling them the Red, Green and Orange. A major player among the Shrine circuses, the show had dates for big city temples in Houston, Cincinnati, and Minneapolis in the spring. The Cincinnati run day and dated Ringling-Barnum. Using the title Royal Sanger Circus in some areas, the Hanneford's summer tented run went into late September and included a week and a half adjancent to a Columbus, Ohio amusement park as well as some fair dates. For ten days in August the show camped near Montreal where the equipment and some of the personnel were used in the TV movie Barnum. Tommy Hanneford was P. T.'s ringmaster in this one. A fall indoor schedule lasted into early December.

Tarzan Zerbini had two troupes out, the Blue and the Gold. The Gold unit

The elephant ride was a common sight on both indoor and outdoor shows. The Woodcock family do it



Pedro Carillo was one of the top high wire walkers in the husiness. He is shown here on a tented date for Tarzan Zerbini in Windsor, Ontario during the summer. John Polacsek photo.

started off for the Fort Wayne Shrine at the end of January, and ended its season in Utica, New York in early October. Dates in between included two and a half weeks in Detroit, the country's premier Shrine date, a number of short tented stands in Ontario and Quebec, and an under canvas date in Chattanooga. An amazing total of 81,000 people viewed five performances in two days in Calgary for the local temple on March 8-9. Zerbini and his cats, Dolly Jacobs, Trudy and Bill Strong and their dogs and horses, the Carrillo brothers on the high wire, the Zerbini and Diano elephants, and Joe Bauer's space wheel headlined the performance in Detroit.

The Blue unit opened in early March for the Shrine in Vancouver and exhibited extensively in the Pacific Northwest, the Big Sky states, Western Canada, and the Plains states through July. Joe Bauer managed this troupe which had both tented and indoor dates. At Spokane Patricia Zerbini worked seven tigers, the Winn Bros. had their aerial motorcyle. Gary Thomas worked the elephants and

here at Flint, Michigan during Tommy Hanneford's opening date. Sandy Pfening photo.



Christopher Munoz did his cannon act. At Seattle the show used 24 sheet billboards

The Circus Gatti or the American Continental Circus, operated by Patricia Gatti Colquohoun, appeared in its usual territory in the Southwest and West for the Shriners and other fraternal groups. The troupe was in Texas in March, did the Tacoma and Los Angeles Shrine dates in April and May, and day and dated Vargas in San Jose on May 31-June 1. The performance featured Wally Naghtin and his bears, Doug Terranova and his tigers, the Lemke chimps, and Tommy and Pom Pom Donoho with four elephants. Tim Tegge started off as ringmaster and producing clown early in the season. After he left, Bill Martin joined as ringmaster after closing with James M. Cole. American Continental made both indoor and outdoor dates.

The George Carden International Circus, which occasionally had two units out, also produced a number of Shrine dates among which were ones in Milwaukee, Madison, Orlando, and Springfield, Missouri. Much of the season was spent west of the Mississippi River. They performed as an arena troupe, a grandstand show and under canvas, doing the latter for nine days at the West Virginia state fair in August. Bruno Blaszek had his family's tigers at many stands.

Hamid Morton, the oldest of the Shrine troupes, started off in Roanoke, Virginia in late January with Roy Wells and the John Cueno elephants, Jacqueline Zerbini and her 14 lions and tigers and her daredevil act. Appearing in the East and Midwest, the show's route concluded in Norfolk, Virginia in mid-June with earlier appearences in Kansas City, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, St. Paul, Boston, and

The Coronas Circus also had two units on the road. The Shrine version opened near Atlanta in early April and closed at Kansas City in late October. The fair show started in late January in West Palm Beach, Florida and closed in Deland, Florida in December. The Atlanta Shrine date was under canvas for the first time in 1986 using a rented Harold Barnes tent, a good sized 150' round top with four 50' middle sections which held approximately 4000. The Georgia Shriners also operated a large midway in conjunction with the big top performance which had 30 rides. All this was serious business as the Yaarab Temple grossed \$1,600,000 from the ten day run, including \$15,000 in parking revenue. Other big city Shrine dates were produced in Indianapolis and St. Louis.

Eddie Zacchini's Olympic International Circus had a similar route as past years, opening with the Florida State Fair in Tampa for twelve days in February under a rented Harold Barnes tent. This was followed by the three week run for the Chicago Shrine in March. In April, Zacchini produced the Nashville Shrine date for the 22nd year. The Terre Haute, Indiana Shrine engagement followed. Acts in Chicago included Carol Marcan and her lions and tigers, Dino Goldfinger, hand balancer, Vino Berosini, "the king of swords," and Bill Morris' elephants.

George Hubler's International Circus had a number of sponsored dates, including a few for Shrines and Grottos through October. At the long time date at Mentor, Ohio in February he used Gerard Soules and his poodles, Dolly Jacobs, and the Vidbel elephants. Veteran Bill "Boom Boom" Browning had the band and Miss Charlie Hackett did the announcing. In September Jorge Barreda used Hubler's equipment to put on a March of Dimes Circus tour through seven Oklahoma cities.

Bill Kay produced a number of Shrine circuses including ones in Albany, Syracuse, Columbus, Jacksonville, Salt Lake City and a number in West Virginia. It was his first time in Columbus. Carol Marcan and her cats made some of the stands as did the Vidbel elephants. Alberto Zoppe's Circus Europa had Shrine work in Buffalo, Rochester, and Little Rock among other cities. At Monroe, Louisiana in March Zoppe used Daisey's Ham and Eggs review, Garylord Maynard and his trained horse, Douglas MacValley and his motorcycle globe act, and Karen Cristiani and her elephants.

Don Johnson's Clyde Bros. Shrine circused in a number of smaller cities. At Lake Charles, Louisana the acts included Bobby Gibbs and his camel act, and the Enrico Wallenda high wire duo. Johnson had problems with his liability insurance which caused him to back out of his traditional dates in Sharon and Erie, Pennsylvania. Ian Garden's Garden Bros. had a few Shrine dates including Toronto, and Allentown and Reading, Pennsylvania. The tour lasted from February through May. At Allentown the acts included the Winns' wire walking, Killer Willard the boxing kangaroo and Bobby Moore's elephants. Charles Schlarbaum had the band until he left for Toby Tyler.

Grace McIntosh's M & M Circus worked for Shrine temples in Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri. The Centrons' motorcycle act and the Woodcock elephants



Rented five pole big top used by Coronas Circus at their Shrine date in Atlanta in April. Joe Bradbury photo.

worked at Lincoln. Ed Migley's Circus Odyssey had the Shrine dates at Harrisburg. This was a big production in three rings with Alan Gold and his ten lions and tigers, King Arthur and Goldie doing their comedy high wire act, Welde's bears, and ten elephants from George Hanneford, Karen Cristiani and Gee Gee Engesser. Migley also had an outdoor dates at Parma, Ohio in June with the Cueno tigers presented by Jackie Zerbini, the Flying Espanas, and the George Hanneford elephants. An early year tour of Puerto Rico was scrubbed and re-booked for May and June.

Ron Kelroy had a February Shrine engagement in Louisville with the Josip Marcan tigers, Jacki Althoff bears, and the Karen Cristiani elephants. He also picked up the Donny Johnson Shrine

D.R. Miller celebrated his 50th year as a circus owner in 1986. He is shown here with his wife Isla. John Polacsek photo.



dates in Sharon and Erie, Pennsylvania. Kelroy called his company the Royal Australian Circus at a fair in Springfield, Illinois in August. Rudi Jacobi had a number of eastern appearances from April through June including the Shrine at White Plains in May. Acts at this one included Jorge Barreda, lions; the Winn's, sky wheel; Jacki Althoff, bears; and Bobby Moore, elephants. Toby Circus Ballantine, son of author Bill Ballantine, was the producing clown, and Steve Gangi led a six piece band. A planned tour in August and September as German National Circus Althoff fell through.

Wayne McCarey had his usual Shrine dates in Maine in April and May. He also produced the Big E Circus at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts in September. This date included the Winn's wire walk, Andre's lions, Wally Eastwood's juggling, Roy Wells and the Hawthron elephants. Peter Sturgis, veteran Circus World Museum announcer, was the ringmaster. Sam Polack produced the Toledo, Ohio Shrine circus in conjunction with George Hubler. This was old-timer Polack's last hurrah as he retired from the business after this date. Bob Atterbury produced the Shrine circuses in Austin, San Antonio, Ft. Worth and Dallas in October and November. Acts on this circuit included Johnn Cox and 15 Cueno tigers, Bobby and Rosa Gibbs with their liberty camels, and Roy Wells and the Hawthorn elephants. Paul V. Kaye had the Evansville, Indiana Shrine dates in late November using the Jackie Zerbini tigers, and both the Althoff and Steele bears. John Winn's Europorama Circus had grandstand dates in Oregon and Washington during the summer with the Otto Berosini cats, the Flying Caballeros, Don Johnson's elephants and a six piece band.

Other circuses functioned similiarly to Shrine shows under the auspices of different sponsors, most notably police and fire groups. The Bentley Bros. Circus, owned and managed by Tommy Bentley and Chuck Clancy, played a split season with a tour of California in May and June, and then an Eastern and Midwestern swing from late July to September. The show played grandstands under the auspices of police and other groups. Acts included Carol Marcan's cats, Walt Stimax's chimps and dogs, and the Flying



Interior of the Kelly-Miller big top during the Ann Arbor, Michigan date. John Polacsek photo.

Caballeros. Frank Curry had his Ronald McDonald Circus in Toronto in January and in Nashville in February. Both these dates were indoors; in 1985 this show had some tented work. Part of proceeds from the show went to Ronald McDonald houses which provide parents of hospitalized children a place to stay on an ability to pay basis. The Kilozal brothers had a one ring outdoor show in Brandon, Florida in June called Circus Fun Festival. They later produced a show called John Robinson Circus in Inverness, Florida for the local Sertoma Club over Labor Day. The Robinson title was presumably revived because of its legendary drawing power in the South.

School circuses were a significant segment of the business. Often blurring the distinction between the circus and other forms of live entertainment such as magic and variety shows, these small shows appeared in gyms, armories, and auditoriums and functioned as fund raisers for PTAs and PTOs, and other groups. James M. Cole's All Star TV Circus was probably the oldest of the genre. It toured for close to eight weeks in February and March in small towns in New York and Pennsylvania with a twelve act program featuring Bill and Cheryl Martin in a number of roles, and Barry Yiengst doing magic. John Strong, another veteran producer, had a number of shows on the road including a circus, magic show, and a clown troupe. Playing mainly in the West, one circus unit was managed by Terrell Jacobs III.

Harry Dubsky's Circus Galaxy had dates in the East and Midwest from at least April through late December. This one had a strong performance for this type of show as Dubsky's son, working under the name Harry James, did a one finger stand, wife Gina had an uncaged leopard act, and daughter-in-law Stephanie Chapman did an aerial act. Mearl Johnson handled the booking. Ray Mac-Mahon's Royal American Circus out of Jackson, Mississippi played throughout the deep South from May until at least October. Veteran Phil Chandler trouped with this one, doing magic as well as announcing the show.

Jose Cole's Circus had its usual split season, appearing in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota from March through May, and in the same territory plus Iowa and Ontario in September. The spring tour featured Jerry Lipko and chimps, Jim Arneberg and an iron jawed dog act, and Bones Craig and three elephants. Jim Nordmark's International All Star Circus appeared in the South, the Midwest and the East. Leigh Ketchum was the show manager and acts included magic, vent, juggling and knife throwing. A small African elephant named Snuffy was also on the bill. Jim Russell's Peanut Circus played in the South, Midwest, and East from at least May to December. Ronnie Bacon had a school show in Ohio and West Virginia in the winter and did independent booking for tent shows in the summer.

Other auditorium shows included Al Stencell's Super Circus International from Toronto which had Canadian indoor dates during the summer, and a

A dapper John Herriott of the Herriott Family Circus. John Herriott



run at a fair at Ottawa in August using a rented 120' by 80' tent which had been on Allen Bros. Circus in 1985. James Hetzer's International Circus played small towns along the Ohio River in the spring. His daughter Cathy Rogers was the singing ringmistress on this run. Animal acts on the tour were Helen Carpenter and seven cats and Mike Rice with mixed animals including Rajah the elephant. Bill Garden's Holiday Hippodrome show had a spring and fall season. During a Texas swing in November he used Cousin Grumpy and the Original Pork Chop Review, one of three trained pig acts in the country. Cousin Grumpy was the son of the late Boyd Kimes aka Uncle Heavy. Harry Beck had his Circorama in the South and Appalachia in both spring and fall tours. The fall season started on September 3 and lasted eleven weeks. A show called Children's World of Circus played New England and New York in the summer. This may have been Walter Child's outfit.

A number of touring indoor companies contained elements of circuses in their performance or were magic or variety presentations using the word "circus" in their title. Among these were Stuart Miller's Magic Circus which was in the Southeast in the spring, the Hollywood Magic Circus which played malls in California, and Barry Yiengst's Magic Circus out of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania which sometimes appeared under canvas. Jon's Variety Show, owned by Tony Bartok Perz, son of Bunny Bartok, had clowning, sword swallowing, juggling and contortion, and was more a circus than any number of troupes using "circus" in their title. The Wild West Family Circus, appearing in New Mexico in December, was essentially a Santa Claus show.

A number of touring shows were hard to classify. While they were a legitimate part of the 1986 circus scene, they were difficult to put in any particular slot. With their roots in the theater, not sawdust, they reflected the traditions and techniques of the stage as much as that of the arena. The Big Apple Circus and Canada's Cirque du Soleil were the foremost examples of this type show. Another was the Pickle Family Circus based in San Francisco. The brain child of Larry Pisoni, the troupe was a non-profit corporation which received money from the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, and numerous foundations. Appearing mostly in California with spot dates in Washington, Oregon, and Iowa, it played both indoor and one ring outdoor dates, the latter using a sidewalled canvas. The performance contained jugglers, acrobats, hand balancing, single trapeze, all with strong elements of mime and lots of clowning. The show carried no animals. The show published its history in an attractive paperback book in 1986.

Bob Daraio's No Elephant Circus was another non-profit organization which



Canvas truck rolling up the Franzen big top in Illinois. Tom Parkinson photo.

included jugglers, fire eaters, rope walkers, balancers, acrobats and clowns. It tied in with local symphony orchestras which backed up the acts. The performance ran anywhere from 15 minutes to two hours depending on the type of date. The show did both standard sponsored dates, mostly in the East, and many free shows at hospitals and nursing homes. Make-A-Circus was also a non-profit which toured California from June to September. The first half of the exhibition was a scripted play which incorporated circus acts into the plot; the second half was a workshop where the audience learned basic circus skills such as juggling, tumbling and stilt walking. A newcomer to the genre was Le Cirque Imaginaire which appeared in a New York City theater in November. The four member cast included a French couple and their children doing magic and wire walking. The performance was called "quietly eloquent" by the New York

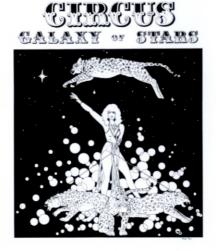
In two cases, the circus was the medium for the message. Nick Weber, a Jesuit priest, led the Royal Lichtenstein Circus on a number of indoor and outdoor one day dates in the Midwest and South. Run by the Catholic Church, the show brought up spiritual issues as part of the 75 minute performance. The Circus Alleluia was part of the mission program of a church in Tampa, and was a combination circus and revival. All show personnel were members of the church.

Many showmen produced a small number of dates, sometimes only a single one. While more information may reveal further activity, the following appear to have counted their circusing in days not weeks. Norman Borger and Elton Berlin produced the Police Circus in Wheaton, Illinois in June for the fourth consecutive year. The show, three rings under canvas, featured Alan Gold and his cats, the Smahas horses, Carmen Hall's baboons, and the Diano elephants. Borger and Berlin also provided entertainment

for private functions such as company meetings and picnics throughout the year. Bruno Loyal's Circus Bruno again had a date in Dallas from November 6 to 16 for the police. The tented engagement featured Dolly Jacobs and the Carillo brothers. This stand also had a side show managed by Sam Alexander with a tattooed man, sword swallower and a block head. Earlier in the year Alexander had taken the Bruno equipment to Hawaii to produce a side show at the state fair. The Sarasota circus community gave their annual Showfolks of Sarasota Circus on December 6 with a great array of arenic talent. The Showman's Club in Gibsonton, Florida held their fund raising circus in January under Allan Hill's tent. Acts included Naghtin's bears, and Bill Morris' elephant. Charles Moyer had the hand.

A number of producers booked circus-

Harry Dubsky's Circus Galaxy of Stars used this attractive poster. Harry Dubsky collection.



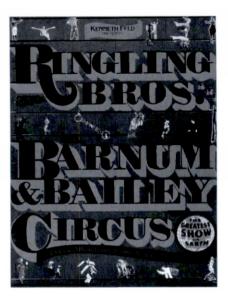
es as spot dates at fairs, often on a one shot basis. Geoge Moffit had a number of acts including the Smahas and their horses in the International Fair Time Circus at a fair in Bloomington, Illinois in late July. Wes Oler had the Mighty Mini-Circus at a fair in East Greenwich, Rhode Island in August. A three ring show called Circus Continental appeared at the Lorain County Fair in Ohio in August. The Larsson Bros. Circus was the free show at a South Carolina fair in August and September using the tent and equipment from Manuel Ramos. Larrson also used the Roberts Bros. equipment for at least one Florida date in April. Oscarian Bros., Ramos' show, appeared under canvas near Tampa in November for the Chamber of Commerce.

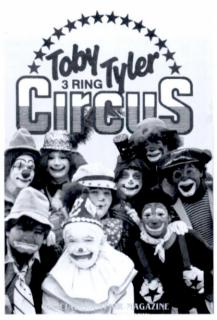
Logan Pritchett and Charlie Roark produced Circus 1886 at the Arkansas State Fair in September and October. The Glenn Parkins Aerial Thrill Circus appeared at a Saginaw, Michigan fair with the Flying Cortez and the Munoz cannon. Agent Dwight Damon had the Star Spangled Circus at a fair in Deerfield, New Hampshrine as a grandstand show. Jorge Barreda booked the circus at the Mississippi State Fair in October. Acts included the Flying Garcias and Benny Williams and Anna May. The Circus World Museum's Rick Percy led the band.

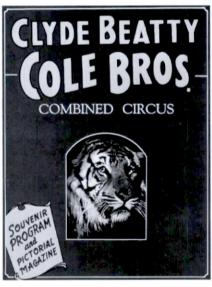
Some shows received very little ink in the trade press, and consequently little is known of their activities which were most likely more extensive than noted here or simply a troupe listed elsewhere under a different title. The Grand Cirque Universal played Quebec in May and June with Julius Von Ulh and ten lions and Mike Rice and his elephant. Circus Evita appeared at the Shelby, Montana civic center in August during a tour of that part of the country. Emmet Kelly Jr. had his circus at Yakima, Washington on September 28. Norbert Kreisch produced a show in New Orleans in September with the Alberto Zoppe riders. Dick McCarthy's America's International Circus played a mall in Beloit, Wisconsin in October.

The youth circus continued to thrive in 1986. The Florida State University Flying High Circus again appeared at Callaway Gardens, Georgia for the first two weeks of April and then from June to Labor Day under a 120' round top tent with three 40' middle sections. The performance lasted about 40 minutes with casting, cycling, juggling, cradle, rola bola, flying trapeze and high wire. The Circus City Festivial City in Peru, Indiana hosted the Circus Fans Association convention in July. The Wenatchee Youth Circus, headed by Paul Pugh, toured Washington and Idaho from June to August. A non-profit endeavor, all performers were under eighteen. The venerable Sailor Circus appeared in Sarasota under canvas in March and April, then again in December. This show's title came from the local high school's nickname, the Sailors.

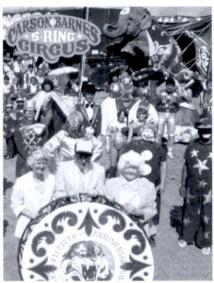
# 1986 Programs

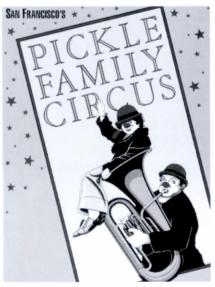
















Bruce Pfeffer's Circus of the Kids taught circus skills to about 500 children in Hancock, New York from June to August. A part of the training was a three ring performance before audiences and field trips to Clyde Beatty and Big Apple. The Great Y Circus from Redlands, California performed in that state during the spring and summer.

Many circus acts found employment at amusement and wildlife parks, fairs, and festivals as single attractions. Benson's Wild Animal Farm in Hudson, New Hampshrine had a circus. The Circus World Museum had its strongest performance ever with Bobby Gibbs' camels, the Bill Woodcock's elephants, Jim Hall's bears, Carla Emerson on web, Jimmy Williams clown, and Karen Lowande on single trapeze. Lowande was a descendent of the famous old riding family. Peter Sturgis acted as ringmaster, and Rick Percy led the musicans. The museum also featured a magic show and a menagerie with a giraffe, hippo, zebra, ostriches, leopards, and bears.

A number of trade shows and auto and sports shows used circus acts to create interest in their event. For example, the Home Builders Convention in Dallas in January had a circus band directed by Chalrie Stevenson and Mike Winn and his wheel of death. Las Vegas continued as a major circus center as many casinos featured circus acts in their revues, and the Circus Circus Casino showcased big top performers all day long.

While the liability insurance crisis kept one show in the barn and created difficulties for others, by year's end it showed signs of easing. "There are no circus fans in the insurance business, veteran producer George Hubler said referring to the escalating costs of coverage which began in 1985. Indeed, Kelly-Miller which hadn't had a claim in its three years of operation, saw its liability insurance bill go from around \$11,000 in 1984 to \$75,000 in 1986. John Strong paid \$30,000 to cover his school show which carried no animals. Franzen Bros. came close to calling it a season after its rates increased 1100% and Roller Bros. Circus never got started because of insurance costs.

The problem was part of a larger trend in which liability insurance premiums have increased astronomically since 1984. Other branches of live show business were also effected as evidenced by the dozens of insurance stories in Amusement Business as carnivals, parks, fairs, and other live attractions experienced difficulties similar to circus'. Early in the year George Hamid and 14 other carnival and circus operators formed their own insurance company to obtain lower rates. Among the original investors in the company, called Preferred Amusement Risks Ltd. and based in Barabados, were Hamid, the Carson and Barnes Circus, the Clyde Beatty Circus, John Cueno's Hawthorn



Dolly Jacobs on the Roman rings was one of the top acts in the business. She is shown here during the Detroit Shrine date for Tarzan Zerbini. John Polacsek photo.

Corporation and the Commerford Petting Zoo. The problem appeared to be less severe for other showmen at season's end as more companies began writing circus coverage and rates stopped climbing or in some cases actually dropped. While costs were still historically high, it seemed the worst was over and that in the near term, at least, liability insurance would be slightly less a problem than in the recent past. In Connecticut, however, strict liability insurance regulations kept some shows out of the state and curtailed the use of tents by others.

The circus entered the American psyche in many ways other than from inside the ring in 1986. Howard Tibbals had his great model circus and many examples of rare memorbilia on display at the National Geographic Society building in Washington, D. C. for much of the year and the New York Historical Society had a Barnum exhibit in the spring. The July

Great Circus Parade in Milwaukee was again an unqualified success as Tu-Tall the giraffe in a replicated Ringling Bros. giraffe cage was the star of the march. The Twin Hemisphere wagon rolled for the first time in years as Sarasota had a circus parade as part of its Centennial Celebration in January. Later in the year a bronze statue of John Ringling was unveiled in Sarasota. In November hundreds of old posters and other circus materials were auctioned in New York City. The Circus of the Stars TV special received good ratings as did CBS's version of P. T. Barnum's life starring Burt Lancaster. Circus World in Orlando finally died when it closed forever on May 13 only hours after the park was sold to Harcourt Brace Jovanovich for \$23 million. It was to re-open in 1987 as Boardwalk and Baseball.

Showfolks who passed on during the year included Winifred Colleano, widow of Con Colleano; Bob "Smiley" Corbin, veteran circus and carny clown; Barry Mitchell, flyer on Polack and Ringling-Barnum; Harry Anderson of Enquirer Printing; Margarette Jahn, old-time Ringling-Barnum performer; Tony Smaha, horse trainer; Robert Earl, owner of Roberts Bros. Circus, Aut Swenson, auto thrill show owner who employeed many circus acts; George W. Smith, ex-Ringling, Dailey, and Beatty manager; George Voise, ex-Ringling flyer; and Bernard Mills of England's Bertram Mills Circus.

This overview, for all its superficiality, omissions and errors, would be far less than it is if it were not for the help of many friends, both in and out of the circus business. My thanks to George Bingamann, Norman Borger, Joe Bradbury, Arnold Brito, Gordon Brown, Jake Conover, Jim Dunwoody, Bill Elbirn, Joe Fleming, John Fred, Bobby Gibbs, Roland Gibbs, Walter Heist, John Herriott, Doug Holwadel, Al House, Lise Huneault, Bill Johnson, Ed Jones, Blake Kellogg, Arthur and Sarah Jo Kobacker, Chuck Koenekamp, Don Marcks, Tom Parkinson, Fred Pfening Jr., J. Scott Pyles, Holton Rower, Ron Sanford, Peggy Snider, Mike Sporrer, John Still, Spencer A. Stine, John Sullivan, Frank Thompson, Warren H. Wood, and Buckles Woodcock for materials. Amusement Business and White Tops were also consulted. As in the past the main source of information was Circus Report edited by Don Marcks.

#### PHOTOS

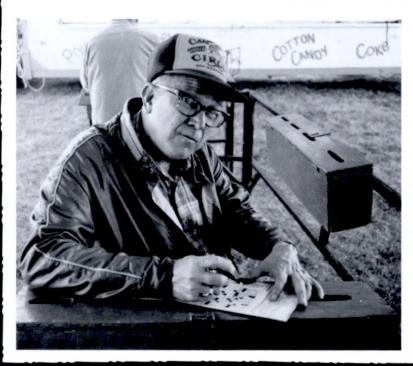
Four 8x10 BW photos of Cole Bros. Train wreck July 27, 1945 Brainard, Minn. \$12.00 Postpaid

> Bill Watson 3522 R. Willow Ave. Castle Shannon, Pa. 15234





#### **CONGRATULATIONS TED BOWMAN** AS YOU START YOUR TWENTY-FIFTH SEASON UNDER THE BIG TOP **Best Wishes** From the Kids in Detroit





### The Elephant in America Before 1840

by Stuart Thayer

There may be no aspect of field show history that has produced as much apocrypha as the history of the various elephants brought to America for exhibition purposes. We would expect this in nineteenth-century work, in the days before research was as refined as it now is, but we still find examples of misinformation in contemporary writing. As recently as the summer of 1986, the New York Times ran an article that commented on one of Hachaliah Bailey's elephants in a completely spurious way.

Elephants are probably the most popular aspect of circus and menagerie history and thus are commented upon much more than other animals. They are always given names and their occasional bursts of activity are widely reported, as much today as in the previous century, Sifting through various accounts of the early activities of these beasts in America has encouraged us to list them and detail what is known of their careers. Such a project would be useless without the supporting documentation, so what follows will be as much an index as a narrative and we ask the reader to bear with us as we plow through the evidence.

#### 1. The Crowninshield Animal 1796

The first elephant to be imported came to New York from Bengal on the ship America captained by Jacob Crowninshield. A two-year old female, she landed on April 13, 1796. Her arrival is recorded in two New York papers, the Journal of 13 April and the New Commercial Advertiser of 23 April. In addition, Nathaniel Hawthorne's father was a member of the crew of the America and he refers to the elephant and the date of their landfall in his log of the voyage.

The sex of the animal was a matter of some confusion. Advertising in both 1797 and 1798 refers to it as a "he." Dr. William Bentley, of Salem, whose diaries have survived, visited every animal show that came to his town and remarks that he saw the elephant on 30 August 1797, and that it was a female having teats "just behind the fore-legs."

Captain Crowninshield sold the beast for \$10,000 according to a handbill published in Hartford and now in the collection of the American Antiquarian Society. A Mr. Owen was the ostensible purchaser; at least he was in charge of her in Asheepo, North Carolina, in 1796. This was noticed in John Davis' account of his travels about the country.

Newspaper advertisements heralding the elephant's arrival have been found in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore for 1796. The man who petitioned for the license in Baltimore was named John Carrier. We have found no other reference to him. She wintered in Philadelphia in 1796-97, and in 1797 is found in New York, Boston, Providence, Cambridge, Salem, Marblehead, Beverly and Newburyport. Excepting the Salem stand, which is verified by a handbill in the Essex Institute, all these dates are the product of newspaper research.



ACCORDING to the account of the celebrated BUFFON, is the most respectable, Actional is the world. In the see for trained all other trendring creatures and by his intelligence, to make as note an approach for man, as master can approach figint. A difficient proof that there is not to a proper control of the second proper control of the control of th

A respectable and convenient place is fitted up at Mr. VALENTINE's, head of the Market for the reception of those laides and gentlemen who may be placed to view the greatest natural curiofity ever preferred to the 'turious, and is to be feen from fun-rife, 'till fun-dewn, every Day in the Week, Sandays excepts.

67 Admittance, ONE QUARTER OF A DOLLAR.—Children, NINE PENCE.

67 Admittance, ONE QUARTER OF A DOLLAR.——Children, NINE PENCE. Bofton, August 48th, 1797

The Crowninshield elephant, the first such animal in America, was advertised by this handbill when she appeared in Boston in the summer of 1797.

The winter of 1797 saw the elephant in the South, presumably in Charleston for one stop, but no advertising has been found. She went to Philadelphia in April, 1798, by boat from the South, which is our only clue to a southern trip. A stay in Philadelphia was followed by visits to Worcester, Hartford, New York, Lancaster and back to Charleston in December. Again, these are all confirmed by newspaper ads, excepting New York, which is found in Odell, II:33.

In March, 1799, she was in Savannah, where the *Columbian Museum* of 19 March said she was seven years old (she was said to be two when she landed in April, three years earlier) and confirmed that she was a female.

In 1801 we have an ad from the *Rhode Island Mercury* of 20 June, placing her in Newport, Tiverton and Bristol, and nothing more is found.

R.W.G. Vail wrote the Wisconsin Magazine of History in 1942 that he had material showing the elephant being offered for sale by a Major Eames in 1801, but we have no knowledge of what he referred to. It seems strange that the death of the beast is not recorded somewhere readily available to us, but such is the case. We will indicate below that she might have been alive as late as 1806.

#### 2. Betty (Old Bet) 1804

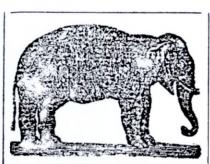
The second elephant to reach these shores arrived on June 25, 1804, and was a four-year old female from Africa. All this is told us by the *Independent Chronicle* of Boston dated 28 June. Edward Savage, a Boston artist, ex-

hibited her, but whether he imported her or not has not been ascertained. Hachaliah Bailey, whose name is intertwined with this animal, can be verified as owning her only in December, 1809. In that month he leased a quarter of her earnings for eleven months in exchange for a half-interest in a tiger named Nero. That he was involved with "Old Bet" earlier than that is almost foregone, but we have found no earlier mention of him.

In 1804 she was on exhibit in Boston and Salem; in 1805 in the Hudson Valley and in Richmond, Virginia. However, a mystery rises in 1806 that may indicate the 1805 Richmond stand as that of the Crowninshield animal. There are appearances documented in May 1806, in both New York City and Charleston, South Carolina. Surely, only one of these can be "Old Bet" and thus the Crowninshield import could still have been alive that late. If so, the Richmond stand and the Charleston stand would seem to be the same animal moving south. We are fairly confident that the first elephant was dead by 1808, as ads for "Old Bet" in that season refer to their subject as the only elephant in America.

She was not called "Old Bet" until after her death, after the importation of the second of her name. During her lifetime she was called simply "Bet," as confirmed in a letter from Andrew Brunn to Hachaliah Bailey dated 19 April 1813. The letter is in the Somers Historical Society collection and is

When Betty I appeared in Lexington, Kentucky, in December 1808, her owners placed this ad in the *Lexington Reporter* of December 15.



#### A LIVING ELEPHANT

To be seen at the house of Wm. Satter-white from Tuesday the 20th to Saturday the 31st instant. Those that wish to gratify their curiosity by seeing the wonderful works of nature, will do well to call previous to that time. Perhaps the present generation may never have the opportunity of seeing an Elephant again, as this is the only one in the United Sates, and perhaps the last visit to this place.

The Elephaut is eight years old and is up-

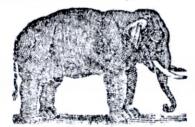
wards of seven feet high.

The Admittance 25 Cents. To be seen from 9 o'clock in the morning till sunset.

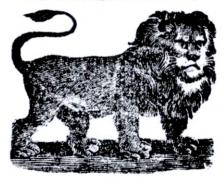
Dec. 12.

#### EXHIBITION

OF NATURAL CURIOSITIES. TO be seen at No. 491 Market street, between Thirteenth and Juniper streets, to remain for two weeks only,



LIVING FEMALE ELEPHANT,



AN AFRICAN LION, (full grown,) A BUFFALOE, just arrived from the Missouri, and a full grown ELK.

Admittance 25 cents-Children 121 cents. Hours of Exhibition, from 9 A. M. until 9 may 3 dtf

In 1821 Betty II was exhibited in Philadelphia with a lion, "buffaloe," and an elk. From the American Daily Advertiser, Philadelphia, May 31, 1821. Pfening Archives.

the earliest reference to the name we have found.

She travelled widely, mostly, of course, along the Eastern seaboard. Winters usually found her in the South. At various times we find Christopher Brown, Andrew Brunn and Isaac Purdy as being in charge of her exhibition.

On 26 July 1816 in Alfred, Maine, Bet was shot and killed by Daniel Davis of Shapleigh, Maine, a farmer. He was jailed when the owners of the beast, Hachaliah Bailey and George Brunn, got around to signing a complaint in Alfred in September, 1816. He furnished bail on September 7; we have found no record of a trial. The jail calendar for Alfred is the source of these facts, a copy of which is in the Putnam County Historical Society collection in Cold Spring, New York.

The death of the elephant was widely reported. Since she was the only elephant in the country and had visited all the more heavily populated places in her twelve years on the road, she was a known personality. Her skeleton was exhibited at 301 Broadway in New York in April, 1817, and in the following year her stuffed skin could be seen in the same city.

#### 3. Betty (Little Bet) 1817

The ship Trident entered Boston Harbor in December, 1817, bringing with it the replacement for the assassinated elephant. George Brunn, Hachaliah Bailey and Isaac Purdy were the purchasers of this newcomer; it is possible that Jeremiah P. Fogg was an investor as well. George Brunn wrote to Bailey on 2 October 1817 as follows: "Received by Mr. Fogg \$500 . . . ship hasn't arrived yet, get more \$ together, getting cold up here.

We don't know where he was or if Fogg's \$500 had anything to do with Little Bet. On 7 December 1817, Bailey gave Isaac Purdy a receipt for \$1,333.33 for 1/6 of an elephant on ship *Trident* from Calcutta. Shipment to be by John Graham & Co. Both these documents are in the Somers Historical Society collection.

The Columbian Centinel of Boston announced the arrival of a female elephant in its issue of 13 December. She was approximately eleven years old, based on later advertising. She was named Betty, according to the Canadian Courant (Montreal) of 22 July 1820, "in honor of the one once exhibited in this city." As far as we know, Little Bet was never called that; it may be an historian's designation. When 1/3 of the beast was sold in 1825, it was described as Bet, formerly Betty.

In March, 1818, she went on display at 269 Broadway in New York and was on the road every year from then until her death in 1826. From New York she moved steadily southward until she reached Charleston in February, 1819. Then she was taken through Georgia (and presumably Tennessee and Kentucky), reaching Detriot in November of that year. By February, 1820, she was in New Orleans. These samples indicated the breadth of her travelling. Apparently, the public never tired of paying twenty-five cents for the privilege of viewing her.

In 1822, C. (for Charles) Wright & Co. were listed as the exhibitors; presumably the owners leased her to others. In 1825, she was accompanied by a lion, again in Wright's care. Charles Wright will be remembered as our first lion trainer, a specialty he first advertised in 1829.

On 24 May 1826 in Chepachet, Rhode Island, Little Bet was shot while crossing a bridge. Six young men of the village were the perpetrators. The Providence Patriot of 8 June has the best account of the event. The boys' families appear to have paid but \$1500 in damages. The bridge was known as the Elephant Bridge for many years.

Crane, June & Co. were exhibiting the animal at the time. A receipt for damages exists. It was issued in favor of Gerard Crane and Lewis B. Titus, who may have been the owners. A handbill for Little Bet's exhibition in Chepachet in 1822 is often confused by writers with the exhibiton of her at the time she was shot and thus one find references to an 1822 demise.

#### 4. Columbus 1817

In the same month that the Trident brought Little Bet to Boston, the ship Columbus, Captain Oliver Blanchard, landed in the same port bearing the six-year old male elephant Columbus. A contract in the

collection of the North Salem Historical Society, dated 11 October 1816, indicates that Hachaliah Bailey and George Brunn agreed to purchase "a male elephant not less than five feet in height" from Israel Thorndike for \$8,000. An endorsement to the contract, dated November 1817, states that Isaac Purdy entered into the agreement at a cost of \$2,000.

As with Little Bet, the owners exhibited Columbus as a single attraction until January, 1824. In that month he appeared with other animals at 272 Market Street in Philadelphia. He then disappears until 1826. We can hypothecate that he went with whatever menagerie this was on a tour of the Caribbean and/or South America. No proof of such a voyage has been found.

In December 1826 Columbus was with a menagerie owned by Fogg, Quick & Mead in South Carolina. Then he disappeared again until 1828. In that year we find three advertisements in New York State. Nothing is found of him from then until December, 1832, when he joined the J.R. & Wm. Howe, Jr. New York Menagerie. Again, we can only ascribe these absences to foreign tours.

For the rest of his career, we find him with various menageries, including three years in the service of the Zoological Institute. In 1843 he became a member of James Raymond's four-elephant hitch, perhaps his most famous affiliation. He was owned and leased

Columbus was a headliner from his importation in 1817 until his death in 1851 as evidenced in this ad for the Raymond and Dreisbach Menagerie about three months before he fell to his death through a bridge in Massachusetts. The Tippoo Sultan referred to in this ad is not the elephant imported in 1821. Pfening Archives.



NUMBERING OVER ONE HUNDRED SPECIMENS,



the Exhibition of a Living Rhi-Curiosity in the Animal World!— The same as p

HIPPOPOTAMUS:

The only one ever exhibited in America.

TWELVE LIONS—of the Finest Spectrom different countries—some of which were do to the renowned Her Driesbach by Her. Queen Victoria—in his recent tour through E.

THE MONNTER ELEPHANT
COLUMBUS!
The Largest in America—weighing 10,730 Ponn
Also—THE BEAUTPUL ELEPHANT
TIPPOO SULTAN!

n over all Eu-

HERR DRIESBACH,

In a Den or average crea-savage crea-tles Performances with the Terrific Group of LIONS—TIGERS—LEOPARDS—COUGARS— FANTHERS, etc.

DENOTE STATE AND TAIMED DENOTED THE STATE OF THE STATE OF

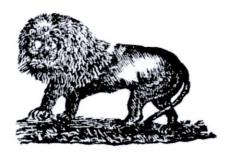
by the Raymond interests from 1840 until his death in 1851.

His thirty-five year career came to a close in October, 1851, when he fell through a bridge over the Hoosick River in North Adams, Massachusetts. He died a week after the accident. Raymond's estate (he died in 1854) sued the town of Adams in 1860. The suit was settled out of court.

#### 5. Horatio 1819

Another elephant named for the ship that brought him from India, Horatio reached New York on 25 November 1819. Apparently, Captain Roblin, master of the Horatio, owned the animal. He sold it to men named Curtis and Campbell of Windsor, Vermont

Tippo Sultan, the sixth elephant to appear on these shores, was part of the Grand Caravan when it advertised in the Albany (New York) Argus of November 1, 1822. Pfening Archives.



#### GRAND CARAVAN

RETURNED, with great additions, to their win-ter quarters, opposite the capitol. The pro-prietors of the Grand Caravan, take the pleasure of pretors of the Grand Caravan, take the pleasure of informing their friends, and the citizen of Albany generally, that they have returned to their old winter establishment. The building has been very considerably enlarged—a ring, or circus, has been made in the center of the building, for the exercises of the different animals—places have also been errected for the greater, convenience of the visitors, from which the greater convenience of the visitors, from which they can have at once a full view of the various per-The animals contained in the grand carformances. avan as follows:

No. 1. Tippoo Sultan the great hunting Elephant No. 1. Typoo Sultan the great natural grephanic of India, some of the performances of this superior animal are different from those of any ever in this country, among other feats he will take his keeper on his tusks and toss him about in a playful manner, at nis tusks and toss him about in a playful manner, at the height of 15 or 18 feet, his weight is about 6000, and is supposed to be the largest now in the U. States; No. 2, the Mammoth Lion; No. 3. Pacos, (a species of the Lama); No. 4, the Ichneumon; No. 5, the Camel; No. 6, Dandy Jack, the Sinna Equestrian, who has excited the wonder and astonishment, as well as drawn from the audiences at the circus in New-York, for several nights the most unbounded. New York, for several nights, the most unbounded applause, with his unexampled feats of horsemonkey ship, is now furnished with a superb Shetland Poney. for the display of his unrivaled abilities; he will, with his usual grace and alacrity, at the word of command, walk erect up to his horse, mount, unfurl his banners, run at full speed with his dag flying, dismount, and then divert his ever num-rous spectators with many other pleasing feats; No. 7, Little Jack, with other inferior animals. Excellent music in attendance.

Admittance 25 cents - children under 12 years old

half price. Doors open from 8 A M until 9 P M.
N. B. The proprietors have spared no trouble or
expense to render this a superior establishment to
any in this country for the Exhibition of Animals.—
Visitors will find the caravan attended with intelligent obliging persons-every care will be taken to

render the place as agreeable as possible. Albany, Oct. 1822. 19tf

and T. and J. Emerson of Norwich, Connecticut. The Centinel of Freedom (Newark) of 11 April 1820 is our source for the landing date; an unidentified Keene, New Hampshire, paper provided news of the sale.

Exhibited by himself, Horatio toured in 1820 and 1821. In late September, 1820, hè fell through a bridge over the Connecticut River between Putney, Vermont, and Westmoreland, New Hampshire. He died of his injuries shortly thereafter. Captain Roblin died with him, so he must have agreed to supervise the elephant's exhibitions. The New York Evening Post of 28 September and 11 and 17 October, 1820, are our sources for the details of the accident.

#### 6. Tippoo Sultan 1821

A fifteen-year old male Indian elephant arrived in Philadelphia in June, 1821, aboard the ship Bengal, Captain Skinner. We learn this from the Ontario Repository of Canandaigua of 19 June. Brought from Calcutta by persons unknown, this animal was originally called Tippoo Saib. In December, 1821, in Baltimore we first find him labelled Tippoo Sultan. Both these names are variations of the title of the Maharajah of Seringapatam and are evocative of anti-British feeling in America following the War of 1812. The Maharajah was very much an Anglophobe.

At the December, 1821, Baltimore stand Tippoo Sultan was made part of a menagerie that had been in continuous existence since 1813, and was to remain on the road until the formation of the Zoological Institute in 1835. It used many titles over the period, none of which help to identify it. The owners included a Mr. Brown, but no more is known of them. By being combined with this caravan, Tippoo became the first elephant in America to travel in a menagerie of other beasts. Details of this show are in the Baltimore American of 11 December 1821.

The most-used title of the menagerie over the next thirteen years was "Grand Caravan with Tippoo Sultan," most likely a generic title. John Martin was Tippoo's keeper and his name first appears in that capacity in 1824. In 1826 Martin Finch & Co., i.e., John Martin and Edward Finch, owned or leased the animals. In 1832 they gave way to Hopkins & Co. The whole caravan was offered for sale in January, 1834, in an ad in the Philadelphia Daily Chronicle of 6 January. The man who signed the ad was Bailey Howes, brother of Epenetus Howes, who invested in several animals over the years, and may have owned Tippoo Sultan.

At the formation of the Zoological Institute in 1835, Nathan Howes and Richard Sands' circus was combined with the Tippoo Sultan show to form one of the five circusmenagerie combinations in the syndicate. In the next two years, Tippoo was with other menageries in the Institute.

He was shipped to the West Indies after the 1837 season, and from there moved to South America. The Dingess manuscript at the Hertzberg Collection in San Antonio says he died in the Caribbean in the winter of 1837-38. However, a letter from Rufus Welch to Charles Wright in the Somers Historical Society collection indicates he was still alive



MACOMBER & CO'S

NEW COLLECTION OF ANIMALS,
ONSISTING of all the principal ANIMALS in America, recently imported from Exeter Change, London, will be exhibited at
MERKILL'S PORTLAND HOTEL,
formerly kept by Mr. Patten, on SATURDAY, July
4,—and for a few days only, afterwards. The Animals in the collection are as follows:

mals in the collection, are as follows:
The Young ELEPHANT, 18 months old only,

but 4 feet 6 inches high; the smallness and docily; but 4 feet 6 inches high; the smallness and docily; of this little elephant, renders it the greatest curiosity ever offered for exhibition in America. The Great Polar or White Bear, the only one in America, weighing between 6 and 700 pounds. The full grown African Lion, from his full flowing mane and superior carriage, is considered the finest of his species in America. The Royal Tiger, imported in the ship Columbia, the 7th past. from London. Just the ship Columbia, the 7th nost from London. Just added, a beautiful Female Leopard, with her three young, which were wholped May the 19th, 1829; a curiosity never before exhibited in America. The Jaguar is a beautifully spotted animal, and has been often mistaken by naturalists for the tiger. The Hyena is one of the most fierce and bloed-thirsty a male that inhabits the Forest.

Also, will be added, the principal Animals in the New England Caravan, viz.—THE MAMMOTH LION, the equal of which the Proprietors defy the world to produce, under a forfeiture of \$4000. The African Lioness; Young African Tiger; Panther, or Catamount; Black Wolf; celebrated Dandy Jack & Poney; together with a large collection of different

The public may rest assured, that every attention will be paid to visiters. The place will be splendidly decorated, & in the evening brilliantly illuminated. Hours of Exhibition, from 10 o clock A. M. until

The young bull on Macomber & Co. in 1829 was probably named Timour. Ad from Eastern Argus, Portland, Maine, July 7, 1829. Pfening Archives.

and bound for Peru in March, 1840. This is the last reference we find to this animal.

#### 7. Flora 1827

In April, 1827, a twenty-one year old female Indian elephant was on exhibit in Portland, Maine. The ad for this stand, which is in the Eastern Argus of 17 April, is the earliest record we have of this animal. Unlike all previous imports, this one did not begin her career appearing as a single attraction. By 1827, we gather, the uniqueness of elephants in America was thinning. Flora, not called that until 1833, was teamed with the first Bactrian camel to be seen in America, along with several more common types and a museum of wax figures. Under various titles (by which we mean the heading on the newspaper ads) this troupe was on tour through 1830. Beginning in 1828, Flora was advertised as twenty-five years old, four years being added to her original age. This may have been done so as to make her the same age as Tippoo Sultan and older than Columbus, the other two elephants in the country at the time.

In 1831 the animals that Flora travelled with became the June, Titus & Co. menagerie and Flora went to a caravan run by Howe & Birchard. This was Birchard & Co. in 1832

#### New England Zoological Exhibition from Boston,

and Gregory, Crane & Co. in 1833. It was with Gregory, Crane & Co. that she was first advertised as Flora.

Gregory and Crane broke up in late 1834 and Flora went with Gregory to his new partnership, Gregory, Washburn & Co. It was this unit that became, under the same title, part of the Zoological Institute in 1835. Teed, Brown & Co. took over as managers of this caravan, for the Institute, in 1836, giving way in turn to James Raymond, who may have purchased the company as the Institute foundered, or may have been assigned to manage it in place of Teed, Brown and Co.

Flora, as the name of an elephant, disappears after this 1836 re-structuring, as do several others. The possibility that her name was changed cannot be denied. However, an unnamed female was connected with Miller, Yale, & Sands in 1837 and its off-shoot, H.A. Woodward & Co., in 1838, and Flora might well have been that animal. After 1838, however, we find no female elephant that fits her description.

#### 8. Timour 1828

In the C.P. Fox collection there is a copy of a letter from London notifying one Jesse Kelley that an elephant was shipped to him sometime before 12 November 1828. In addition, Fox has a contract dated 28 April of the same year in which several individuals agree to import a male elephant, two tigers and other animals. We believe this refers to a two-year old calf that in 1829 was on tour with Macomber & Co.'s Entire New Collection of Animals. In 1830, the same beast was with Macomber & Howe, but only until February. He may have died; that possibility always exists, and provides a simple solution to many research problems. However, in 1832 a menagerie was in the South that advertised Timour, the great hunting or war elephant. This sounds like a monster, but the ads also state that he was "the youngest that has ever been imported to this country." This would seem to pinpoint Timour as Macomber's calf.

The menagerie he graced in 1832 advertised itself as "Circus and Menagerie" in 1833 and "Menagerie and Circus" in 1834. We do not know who owned or managed it. We only know that the animals travelling with it were the same over the three seasons.

In December, 1834, Gregory, Washburn & Co. took delivery of an elephant which they called Mogul. This name appears in Milledgeville, Georgia. The company was newlyformed, Gregory moving from Gregory, Crane & Co. and Washburn coming from we know not where. It seems logical that the "Menagerie and Circus" that Timour was with was managed by Washburn and that Timour was renamed at the time.

Why the name Mogul was chosen is a mystery; there was already an elephant by that name in the country. If Timour became Mogul II, he was with Gregory, Washburn in 1834 and 1835. We cannot trace him beyond then.

#### 9. The Caravan Female 1830

Another contribution from the C.P. Fox collection is a copy of a contract to import two elephants and a rhinoceros by William Watts and Jesse Kelley. It is dated 1 June 183

Will be exhibited in Concord, near the State House, on Tuesday, May 12, for one day only. Hours of Exhibition from 10 A. M. till I P. M. and from 2 till 5, P. M.

day only. Hours of Exhibition from 10 A. M. till 1 P. M. and from 2 till 5, P. M. This immense assemblage of living natural curiosities has been collected at an enormous expense, from all parts of the globe; amidst fatigues and perils, the most romantic incidents and hair-breadth escapes, which can but faintly be conceived by those who come to view them simply as objects of mere curiosity. To obtain many animals of this collection, the highest mountains have been scaled; the thickest foreats penetrated; the deepest rivers crossed; hunger and thirst endured; the tereachery of a cruel and blood thirsty race guarded against, thousands of miles from civilization; the hunter sometimes thrown entirely upon his own resources, with scarcely any prospect before him but a lingering deathystill pressing forward either to gain the object of his enterprise, or perish in the attempt.

This New England It stitution, for the last three years, have had no fewer than from two three kunfied hunters and trappers in their employ; many of them acting in large bodies, and others individually. The principal design of the members is, to establish a Zoolegical Society in New England, that shall become a powerful auxiliary in the advancement of general knowledge; especially to promote the study of natural history, elevating it to that rank among other intellectual pursuits to which it is so justly envited, and which of late has costrongly been claimed for it by our most distinguished men.

As this Institution has been entirely established by New England qualitat and enterprize; as it is intended to be located in the New England States, with Boston for its centre; and, as it enbraces more varieties of species than any other collection, the members hope to be excused in calling upon their fellow-citizens, under all these circumstances, to sustain this institution in preference to all others.

for its centre; and, as it enbraces more varieties of species than any other collection, the membera hope to be excused in calling upon their fellow-citizens, under all these circumstances, to sustain this institution in preference to all others.

They may add that by the return of the ship Susan, from Africa, a number of animals and birds of the careat kinds are expected; such as the two-horned Rhimoceros, the Camel Leopard, with a number of other varieties that have not yet been introduced into the United States. (This mammont collection already contains upwards of one hundred different varieties of quadrupeds and birds.) Among them are the mighty hunting Elephant of the Ganges; the black-maned Lions of Numidia; the Patient Camels of the desert; Royal Tiger; the beautiful Eland, whose speed outstrips the wind; the splendid Zebra; the Horned Horse of Africa; the Zebus, or sacred bulls of Bramah, the spotted and Untameable Hyenas; the Bengal and Asiatic Leopards, the Brazilian Jiggars, the Congars of Buenos Ayres, the Elegant Quaggas of Caffra land, remarkable for their symmetry and beautiful proportions; the Fretful Porcupines of Singapore, the Jackalls, or Liod'a caterer; a number of Leopard bleatiful proportions; the Fretful Porcupines of Lingsbilled Elastic pouched Pelicans; remarkable for their voracity, and dexterity in fishing;—the pouch of this bird is capable of containing a fish weighing ten pounds; the Gigantic Crane from the coast of Barbary, the White, Black, Grizzled, and King Vultures, the Rich Plumaged and Stately Ostriches—this splendid bird is the noblest of the feathered creation; the Spotted Margay, the Variegated Oeclot, or Tiger ja minature, the Egyptian Ichneuman, or serpent destroyer, the Moco from Madayascar, the Golden, Blue, and Blood-Red Macaws from Ceylon, the Panthers of North America; an infinite variety of the Monkey species, from the Colessal Baboon to the smullest Marmozette—together with many animals and birds that space will not admit of being here enumerated.

This magnifici

village will be announced by the band's playing a number of popular airs.

In the course of the exhibition, a number of select and interesting performances will take place. Major Jack Downing will be introduced on his Shetland Pony, and will perform a number of curious, whimsical and laughable feats. The Keeper of the Tigers will-enter the case of the Lions, Hyenas, &c., at 2 and 3 o'clock P. M. The great War Elephant, Mogul, will be introduced with his richly decorated Saddle and Trappings, similar to those used in India. Ladies so disposed, will be invited, and can ride on the Elephant, with perfect rafety.

N. B. The Proprietors have engaged a scientific gentleman for the purpose of raising a large AIR BALLOOK during the exhibition.

The above Establishment will be Exhibited in HOPKINTON on the 11th May, at SAND-BORNTON BRIDGE on the 13th, and at MEREDITH BRIDGE on the 14th of May.

There will also be exhibited on the same days a Large and Splendid Collection of PAINTINGS, together with a Panorama of New-York, on a large scale. 21

1829. Our subject female arrived in Philadelphia in June, 1830, in the company of an eight-month old calf; we assume they were the subjects of the contract. The ship Mary from Calcutta was used as transport, according to the Gazette of the United States (Philadelphia), of 23 June. The Village Record (West Chester, Pennsylvania) of 21 July also noted the arrival and added that the adult elephant was twenty-three years

Such a unique combination was bound to be a popular attraction. They were put on exhibit with a small menagerie and continued thus through 1830, 1831 and 1832, usually advertised as "The Elephant Caravan."

In 1833, the female was combined with a lion and its keeper under the heading "Great India Elephant." In 1834, June, Hopkins & Co. menagerie was on the road with two elephants, a male and a female. We believe Tippoo Sultan was the male and the only female that could possibly fill the other place, assuming we haven't missed one, is the Caravan female.

With the advent of the Zoological Institute in 1835, a female named Siam was allocated to the Philadelephia unit (ex-Purdy, Welch & Co.) and it is our opinion that this was, again, the Caravan female. No record of her is found in 1836 or later.

#### 10. Hyder Ali 1830

The calf of the duo that arrived on the Mary in 1830 was exhibited as previously reported and was not separated from the female until December, 1832. In that month three different menageries were combined in New York and the list published in the Evening Post of 14 December indicates that J.R. & Wm. Howe Jr's menagerie, the American Menagerie and the Elephant Caravan were the parts of it. On 27 December, in Charleston, South Carolina, Raymond & Ogden's menagerie took delivery of a calf which they named Hyder Ali. It would appear that Hyder Ali was the Caravan calf.

He was approximately thirty-eight months old when he joined Raymond & Ogden. They carried him in 1833, saying he was two-years old, and in 1834, saying he was four-years old. In 1835, Hyder Ali was transferred to the Nathan Howes show in the Zoological Institute, which also had Tippoo Sultan. This was an appropriate pairing, for the real Hyder Ali was the real Tippoo Sultan's father. This combination lasted only the one season. For 1836 Hyder Ali went to the June, Titus unit of the Institute, where he was teamed with Columbus. After that season the name sinks into oblivion.

#### Mlle. De J'hick 1831

We have not entered this elephant in our numbering system, as she was outside the category of menagerie animals that we are chronicling. However, since references to her are in some number, we do not think she

In 1835 the Great War Elephant Mogul was on the New England Zoological Exhibition from Boston, part of the Zoological Institute. The year before this company was titled Macomber, Welch & Co. Note mention of balloon ascension in ad. Pfening Archives.

should be totally ignored. Mlle. De J'hick (one of several ways we've seen her name spelled) was a theatre elephant. She performed an act and appeared in dramas, but never in the tented entertainments. A Mister Gallot brought her from France in early 1831. She appeared on the stage in New York, Baltimore, Richmond and Philadelphia, This last city she visited in May, and could have filled other dates. Advertised as the Elephant of Siam, the references to her are just numerous enough to intrude into research on menagerie beasts.

11. Mogul 1831

The Essex Gazette of Haverhill, Massachusetts, announced on 14 May 1831, that a nine-year old male elephant and a small rhinoceros had arrived in Boston on the brig Neponset. In June they were put on exhibition at the Lion Tayern in Boston. At some time they went on tour as the main attraction of Macomber & Co.'s New Collection of Living Animals. Macomber called the elephant Mogul. We do not find either Mogul or Macomber on the road in 1832. In November of that year, in Boston, Mogul appeared as a single attraction. In 1833 we again draw a blank, until August, when Macomber emerges as a partner in Purdy, Welch, Macomber & Co., a menagerie formed that month from a shipload of animals newly arrived. Mogul was not a part of that menagerie, which had no elephant.

On August 2, 1834, Mogul joined Macomber. Welch & Co., another new menagerie just off the boat. Where he could possibly have been in those interim periods is one of our mysteries. Perhaps he simply spent the time on Macomber's farm. Macomber himself was abroad much of 1833 and 1834, securing the animals for the two companies we just men-

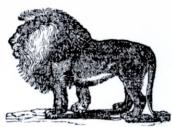
In 1835, Macomber, Welch & Co. became the Boston unit of the Zoological Institute and Mogul was with it. In 1836, the same menagerie went to the Maritimes and was lost. Mogul with it, in the sinking of the steamer Royal Tar en route from St. John, Newfoundland to Portland, Maine.

tioned.

12. Helen McGregor 1831

Much of our information on the female Indian elephant named Helen McGregor comes from a letter to the editor of the Clinton, Ohio, Republican, "circa 1900," in the Conover collection. She was imported from India and landed in New York in September, 1831. Apparently, a shipboard accident had resulted in her breaking her left shoulder. In actuality, the injury must have been greater than that, as she re-injured herself by misstepping while travelling between towns. After a few days resting she was found lying down. She was injured again in the attempt to raise her and died seven days later. This was in September, 1832, so she was in this country only a year.

In 1831, she was exhibited by J.B. Green & Co.'s Menagerie and in 1832 by its successor, Brown & Green's Menagerie and Circus. While short-lived, her career was an important one as she was the first elephant to appear with a circus-the 1832 troupe. Her name comes from literature, but may have been more influenced by the huge steamboat,



ENAGERIE OF GREGORY, CRANE, IVI WARING, TUFTS & CO.—The proprietors would inform the citizens of Albany, Troy and the public generally, that they have united both their Caravans in one for the winter, and have now completed, at a very great expense, the arrangements cardyans in one for the winter, and have now com-pleted, at a very great expense, the arrangements for its reception in the city of Albany, by erecting particularly for its use, a large and commodious building on the corner of Green and Division streets; and have also erected seats, stoves, and every other accommodation that may be necessary to render the place agreeable. They have also made arrangements with a Band of Musicians, who will play a variety of new and popular music, selected with care from the latest and most approved composers, and feel confident in saying, that they are not surpassed by the same number of their profession in this country. The Managers feel great confidence in saying that

they have the most extensive and choice selection of Wild Animals ever offered in this or any other city in the United States, They have spared no pains or expense in fitting up their establishment, and pledge themselves that it shall be conducted in the trust respectable and orderly manner approach.

or expense in fitting up, their establishment, and pledge themselves that itshall be conducted in the most respectable and orderly manner, ane every exertion used to render it worthy of public patronage. Among their animals are the following.

The large male Elephant Siam, lately imported to this country. He measures near 10 feet in height, and is supposed to weigh 10,000 pounds; his Tusks are 3 feet long.

Female Elephant, avery interesting animal. The great Polar or White Boar. This very rare and uncommon animal is only to be found in the frozen regions of the north; generally abounding on the shores of Greenland, Spitzbergenand Nova Zembla. There it is not only seen on the land and fixed ice, but on floating islands of ice, several leagues from shore, where they often perish in the open sea.—From their constant abode among the ice islands, they are termed the Maratime Bear. They differ from all other animals of their species in their ferocious disposition and in their enormous size; somefrom all other animals of their species in their fero-cious disposition and in their enormous size; some-times even reaching the great length of 12 feet.— This one is now 8 years old: is supposed to weigh between 7 and 800 pounds, and the proprietors chal-lenge the world to produce his equal, upon a forfeit-ure of \$5,000, Leopard and Leopardess.

Puma.

The real black maned Lion of Africa, being the ally one ever exhibited in this country, and from only one ever exhibited in this country, and from his size, bold and majestic appearance, is readily pronounced the best animal in America. Tapier, a very singular and interesting animal from

Tapier, a very singular and interesting animal from S. America, and the only one living in the U. S. Royal Bengal Tiger and Tigress, full grown, Asiatic Lion, S. American Tiger and Tigress, male and female Leopards, Cougar, a pair of Panthers, Lama, two Camels, two Mocos, white Raccoon (an Albino), Mountain Cat, Ounce, Wild Cat, Lioness, spotted Hyena.

Black Bear Antelone Mesca Tiger Cat, Lib.

spotted Hyena.

Black Bear, Antelope, Mecca, Tiger Cat, Ichneumons, Catamondies, &c. &c. Jim Crow and his poney, with a variety of Monkies, Apes, &c.

The Menagerie will be opened on Monday the 25th Nov. 1833, and continue open during the winter.

Hours of exhibition from 10 o'clock A. M. till 1 P. M., from 2 till 5 P. M., and from 6 till 9 in the evening. Admittance to each exhibition 25 cents; children under 10 years of age half price.

Season tickets can be obtained at the Menagerie during hours of exhibition. Price \$3. No ladies admitted unattended by gentlemen. Smoking positively prohibited in the Menagerie.

The menageries of Gregory, Crane and Co., and Waring, Tufts and Co. combined for an extended date in Albany over the winter of 1833-1834. This pairing brought together Flora from the Gregory, Crane and Co. show, and Siam from Waring, Tufts and Co. Ad from Albany Argus of December 6. 1833. Pfening Archives.

the Helen McGregor, which exploded on the Mississippi in 1830 with a loss of sixty-two

13. Romeo 1832

Mr. Pickering Dodge, of Salem, Massachusetts, owned the ship Romeo, which, under the guidance of Captain Kennedy. brought a ten-year old male elephant from Calcutta to Boston in the second week of January, 1832. The report of this is in the Newport, New Hampshire Spectator of 21 January 1832. During January and February, Dodge exhibited the animal in Salem. For the tenting season he sold or leased him to June, Titus & Co. Their National Menagerie of 1833 and 1834 also featured Romeo and his small companion, Juliet. This menagerie was combined with another in 1835 to form unit #1 of the Zoological Institute and Romeo went along. In August, 1835, he died of natural causes in Somers, New York, where he had been sent the month before.

14. Caroline 1832

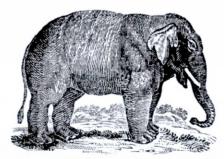
Late in the year 1831, a ship bearing a female elephant went aground in the Delaware River and after much confusion was relieved of its valuable cargo. The elephant, Caroline, was ever after advertised as the "shipwrecked elephant." She was the property of Purdy, Welch, Finch & Wright and joined their menagerie on 10 January 1832. In 1833 she was with Purdy, Welch & Co. and in 1834 went out with a sister-show, Purdy, Welch, Macomber & Co. This last was the basis for the 1835 Baltimore unit of the Zoological Institute and Caroline was its pachydermic star. On 6 August 1835, she died in Rochester, New York, supposedly of dropsy. There is a eulogy to her in the Pittsburgh Gazette of 20 August, the only such tribute to an elephant we have ever found.

15. Hannibal 1832

In 1832 a menagerie managed by a man named Burgess advertised a "Great Hunting Elephant," as he crossed Ontario. Burgess may have gone broke, or been a lessee of the Raymond interests and not kept up his payments (both these amounting to the same thing). Raymond & Week's American Travelling Menagerie took over Burgess' show. They advertised their "Great Hunting Elephant, Timour the Tartar," and advised that he was twenty years old. We believe this animal was the one who became Hannibal, as in 1833 Raymond, Weeks & Co. was advertising that name. Because of his age, this Timour can not be confused with the one in the South which we commented upon earli-

Excepting 1838 and 1839, we have Hannibal's affiliations in a long line to the year of his death. In 1835, 1836 and 1837, he was with Zoological Institute shows, but in other years until 1854 he was with various Raymond units. At that time he passed to the Van Amburgh side of menagerie affairs, beginning with the Great Broadway Menagerie in 1854. If Hyatt Frost and his partners did not own the animal, they certainly had a lock on leasing him. While trouping with the Thaver & Noves and Van Amburgh show, Hannibal died on 6 May 1865, in Centerville, Maryland. Aged about fifty-three at his

#### ELEPHANT ROMEO,



#### FROM CALCUTTA.

THE lovers of Natural History and the curious generally are informed that the Great Elephant ROMEO, lately imported from Calcutta, by P. Dodge, Esq. of Salem, is now in exhibition at—

No. 16 Pond St ... Near Hanover St.

As several of the common Elephants have before been introduced in this country; great pains were taken in obtaining this, to select one, remarkable for his fineness of preportions, his producious strength, great sagacity; and at the same time, his known prudence, coolness and exact obedience. A mahout or native keeper, accompanied him out; and many anecdotes occurred on the passage, of his superiority, in point of ower, judgment and dexterity, to most of his species hitherto seen here.

He is 10 years old; and weighs between 7 and S.-000 pounds. A room has been fitted up exclusively for his reception; where no other animals will be admitted during the winter; and where no lady or gentleman need scruple to come.

Or Hours of exhibition from 9 in the morning till

9 in the evening.

63-Admittance 12 1-2 cents.
Jan 27

Like many other early 19th century elephants Romeo was named after the ship on which he came to America. From the Boston Traveller of November 27, 1832. Pfening Archives.

death, he was on exhibition in America for thirty-three years.

#### 16. Juliet 1832

In January, 1832, the Grand National Menagerie (June, Titus & Co.) first advertised their small female elephant Juliet. That she was so-named because she was paired with Romeo cannot be doubted. There is no importation information on her, but no previously imported female fits her description. She was with the National Menagerie (June, Titus, Angevine & Co.) in 1833 and 1834 and then disappears. Unit #1 of the Zoological Institute, which was formed from June, Titus and Angevine, had a small female, but it was but three years old and four-and-a-half feet high, too small to be Juliet. French, Hobby & Co. had a female elephant in 1835 and Juliet could well have gone there, yet no proof of such a transfer has been located. Crane & Eldred's unit of the Institute in 1835 also had an unnamed female to accompany Pizarro and this, too, might have been Juliet. The name itself is gone after 1834.

#### 17. Runget Singh 1832

Having lost Helen McGregor in 1832, J.B. Green & Co. acquired the male Runget Singh for 1833. He may have been a calf, as the Commonwealth in Frankfort, Kentucky of 8 July 1832, described him as a young male. He remained with Green in 1833, on Green & Brown's (later Green & Bailey's) Menagerie and Circus. This caravan was absorbed by J.T. & J.P. Bailey & Co. in 1835, when it was a unit of the Institute. In 1836, it was titled Bailey, Ludington & Smith and Runget Singh was still a member. He was not on Ludington's 1837 show, nor on any other under that name.

#### 18. Siam 1833

The Litchfield Inquirer (Massachusetts), of 10 October 1833, is our source for the 25 February 1833 landing date of the elephant Siam from Calcutta. He was a male and went on the road in that year with Tufts, Waring & Co. Called Waring, Tufts & Co. in 1834, the caravan became H. and E. Waring & Co. in the winter in Baltimore, from where it emerged in 1835 as the Baltimore unit of the Zoological Institute. We don't find Siam on any 1836 Institute show, but in 1837 he was with the June, Titus, Angevine unit, which toured Canada and went into Somers, New York in August for the Institute auction. Siam was bought by J.J. Jarvis at that sale for \$2,000, perhaps 20% of his value before the Panic of 1837.

Jarvis leased or sold (or was acting for) June, Titus, Angevine as Siam was on their roster from 1838 through 1842. At the end of 1842, the June interests sold him to James Raymond. From 1843 through 1845, Siam was part of the famous four-elephant hitch. In the winter of 1845-46 while in winter quarters in Zanesville, Ohio, Siam died of natural causes.

#### 19. Gold Button 1833

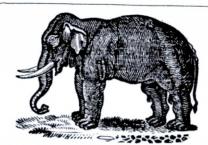
The Miller, Mead & Delavan Menagerie played Frankfort, Kentucky on July 4 and 5. 1834. In its commentary on the event, the Commonwealth of 1 July said that this fullgrown, male elephant had arrived in Philadelphia on the ship Star. It must have been late 1832 or very early 1833 when the ship docked, as Gold Button was with Miller. Mead & Olmstead, the predecessor title, in Cincinnati by March, 1833.

In 1835 Miller, Mead & Delayan were part of the Zoological Institute. They went into the barn early and the animals were transferred to Miller, Yale, Sands & Co. Menagerie and Circus, which was sent into the Southeast by the directors. Gold Button's name is seen no more after Miller, Mead & Delavan folded, but Virginius appears as the pachyderm on Miller, Yale and Sands. We think this signifies a change of name.

As Virginius, the elephant was with the Baltimore unit (Teed, Brown & Co.) in 1836 and with the S.B. June unit that was auctioned at Somers in 1837. A. Hunt & Co. had him in 1838 and he then became a member of the June, Titus & Angevine partnership. From 1839 through 1842 he remained with them. They dissolved their business at the end of 1842 and Virginius was sold to James Raymond. For the next three seasons he was part of the four-elephant hitch. After a year paired with Pizarro for Raymond, the two, in 1847, were drowned attempting to swim the Delaware River from Philadelphia to Camden.

#### 20. Ali Khan 1833

Ali (or Alla) Khan was a twenty-year old male who stood eight feet, nine inches high and had thirty inch tusks when he landed in Philadelphia in October, 1833. He was on display in that city during the early winter. In



#### PURDY, WELCH & CO.'S Immense Menagerie

### LIVING ANIMALS,

At Maelzel's Hall, No. 48 S. Fifth street.

THE proprietors in again having the pleasure to invite the public to visit their Menagerie, feel confident, (with their addition since last season.) that it contains the most rare, gigantic, and beautiful collection of quadrupeds ever offered in this city, and they assure visitors that every attention will be paid to render the exhibition agreeable, which is open from 10 o'clock, morning, until 1, and from 2 to half past 4, afternoon, and from 6 to 9 in the evening.

Admittance 25 cents.—Childrhn under 10 years of age, half price.

half price.

Among the collection are the following:—
The Asiatic LION and LIONESS, with their young whelp.
The keeper will enter the cage with the Lions at 12 o'clock, noen, and 4 in the afternoon; previous to which, a general performance will take place.

The Shibwrecked ELEPHANT Caroline.
A pair of Royal or Bengal TIGERS, lately arrived from Asia, of a gigantic size, and the most beautiful of the cat kind.

ind.
The RED ALPACHA, a native of South America.
ZEBRA, from the Cape of Good Hope, the acknowledged eauty of the horse kind.
BRAZIL TIGER, or Jaguar, the most formidable animal

In South America.

The Great POLAR or WHITE BEAR.—The proprietors The Great POLAR or WHITE BEAR.—The proprietors bid defiance to the world to produce his equal under a for feiture of \$5,000. This powerful animal weighs between 7 and 800 pounds, and the only one in America, is acknow ledged the greatest curiosity ever exhibited in this country. The LAMA, of Peru or Chili.

The UNTAMABLE HYENA, from Ethiopia.
HISTRIX CRISTATIA, or Wonderful Porcupine of Africa—the quills from 10 to 15 inches in length, and are capable of repelling even the lion or tiger.

A pair of LEOPARDS, male and female.
The GAZELL, a beautiful animal of Africa, and the first and only one imported to this country.
A pair of Arabian PACK CAMELS,
The AUGOTA, of South America.
ICHNEUMAN, of Egypt—Monkeys, Apes, Baboone, Birds, &c. together with the drolleries of Jim Crow and his charger.

narger.
The animals will be fed at 8 o'clock in the evening.
During the hours of exhibition the orchestra will perform

a wariety of popular music. A Jimited number of season tickets may be obtained of the For further particulars, see bills.

The shipwrecked elephant Carolina was on Purdy, Welch and Co.'s Menagerie in Philadelphia in January 1833. From the Daily Chronicle, Philadelphia, January 17, 1833. Pfening Archives.

1834 he was placed on Aaron Turner's Columbian Circus in the spring, a winter show managed by C.R. Weeks. Weeks worked for Raymond, so a case might be made that the elephant was a Raymond import. Unfortunately, Turner advertisements for that season are very rare, so we do not know if the elephant accompanied the show on the road. In 1835, when the Columbian Circus was part of the Zoological Institute, it had the elephant Bolivar. It would appear that Ali Khan was renamed for 1835.

In 1836 and 1837 neither name appears. In July, 1838, Bolivar accompanied the Van Amburgh menagerie to Europe, where he remained until 1846.

Upon his return, Bolivar was named Abou El Kadar for one season, but in 1847 reverted to Bolivar. In 1850 the Van Amburgh concern was titled G.C. Quick & Co. and Bolivar was with that concern for two seasons and a third with Sands & Quick. In 1853 he was on Robinson & Eldred and we have not found his name after that year.

21. Pizarro 1834

The Portsmouth New Hampshire Gazette of 9 September 1834 tells us that the ship Dover recently arrived from Calcutta carrying a very large-sized elephant. With the elephant was a rhinoceros which unfortunately broke its neck in a gale off the Cape of Good Hope. This elephant would appear to be Pizarro, which joined Crane & Eldred's Circus and Menagerie in Washington, D.C. in October, 1834. He was with that concern in that truncated season, in 1835, but not in 1836, as they were out of business. A Menagerie and Circus United, and so advertised, managed by J.E.M. Hobby & Co., had Pizzaro in 1837. We suspect that this show branched off from Raymond & Waring that September and was most likely owned by the Raymond interests. Pizarro was with Hobby through 1840 and seems to have gone to Hubbell & Co., another Raymond affiliate, for 1841. We find no trace of him in 1842, but beginning in 1843 he was with Raymond's Great Philadelphia Zoological Garden and in 1846 and 1847, Raymond & Waring. It was Pizarro who drowned with Virginius in the Delaware River on 15 April 1847.

22. The Susan Male 1835

Zebedee Macomber returned to America from Africa in May, 1835, with the last shipment of animals he collected for the Boston Zoological Association. Among the ones he brought on that occasion was a male calf which was assigned to June, Titus and Angevine's unit of the Zoological Institute. It was described in their advertising as being three-years old and four feet, six inches high. It replaced Juliet as Romeo's companion and as Columbus' after Romeo died that August. It also filled the position in 1836. We then lose trace of it until 1839 when it was again on their menagerie. No name for the beast has been found.

A second elephant, a female, was on the Susan, but no affiliation can be verified for

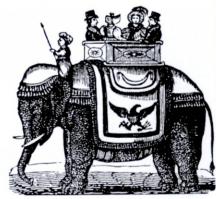
23. Ann arrival date unknown

Raymond & Waring had a female elephant named Ann in 1839. We do not know where she came from but suspect that she was one of the females already in the country and renamed for the 1839 season. There are two good possibilities for her previous name. Both Flora (#7) and the Caravan Female (#9) could have become Ann. The Caravan Female, it will be remembered, was suggested as becoming Siam II in 1835. This might mean that Siam II, in order to distinguish her and stop further confusion with the male Siam, was given the new name.

Ann was a constant in the Raymond herd; she appeared successively with Hobby (1840), Hubbell (1841), the Great Philadelphia (1843-45), Raymond & Co. (1846), Banigan & Kelley (1847), etc. She died in winter quarters in Zanesville, Ohio in January, 1856.

Excluding Ann and the Susan female, we have listed here twenty-two elephants of

#### ELEPHANT BOLIVÁR,



#### NEW YORK. ZOOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

AND COLUMBIAN CIRCUS,
WILL be Exhibited under a Pavilion, sufficiently
spacious to contain one thousand persons.
Portable sents, capable of containing Five Hundred
People, will be erected particularly for ladies and
children. Every accommodation requisite for the
comfort and convenience of the audience will be attended to and indiciously managed.

tended to and judiciously managed.

Messrs. TURNER, JUNE & CO. Managers of this extensive and useful Institution, have been induced to make a tour through the Eastern States where Mr. Turner's Company have formerly been tayorably known for the benefit of our countrymen who are anxious to witness the natural as well as the extension leaving the phytopla alpha.

lavorably known for the benefit of our countrymen who are anxous to winness the natural as well as the artificial curiosities of the habitable globe.

They have spared no pains or expense in procuring one of the most splendid and docile Elephants together with many other Animals, that have ever been seen, in order to render the Exhibition both amusing and instructive—and their great variety of interesting amusements, which they flatter themselves are equal if not superior to any in the United States, is a sufficient guaranty on this point; and they pledge themselves to produce as many Arabian and Hanoverian Horses, as any other Company in the Union, and those that are as well trained; together with a compliment of experenced and celebrated Equestrian Performers; and also a rare collection of beautiful and superior Animals, both in point of disconline and disposition.

they pledge themselves to produce as many Arabian and Hanoverian Horses, as any other Company in the Union, and those that are as well trained; together with a compliment of experenced and celebrated Equestrian Performers; and also a rare collection of beautiful and superior Animals, both in point of discipline and disposition.

The Managers respectfully inform the public that their unrivalled establishment well perform at N. Angell's Inn, in Chepachet on Saturday the 9th inst; at Charles A Farmun's Inn, Slatersville, on Monday the 11th inst; at Woonsocket Falls, on Tuesday and Wednesday the 12th and 13th ins; at Georgia Village, on Thursday the 15th and 16th inst, and in Providence on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st and 22d of May, near the corner of Eddy and Cliff-rd sts.

Admittance to the joint Menagerie and Circus, only 25 cents—children under 10 years of age, halt price. Proper officers will be in attendance to preserve order. No smoking allowed.

Bolivar probably was originally called Ali Khan. By 1835, when this ad for one of the units of the Zoological Institute was used, he was called Bolivar. Pfening Archives.

which seventeen went out with the Zoological Institute's thirteen menageries in 1835. When the Institute folded in 1837, there were a great many unemployed elephants. The following cannot be traced beyond the existence of the Institute:

Flora Runget Singh Mogul II Juliet Hyder Ali Siam II Susan male

Somewhere in the list of later animals, these seven will surely appear, although most likely under other names. The research to identify them and trace their careers has commenced.

For assistance in assembling the facts upon which this article is based, we would like to thank Christopher Audibert, Florence Oliver, Leslie Symington and Fred D. Pfening III

#### CIRCUS MODEL BUILDER/REPAIRER

Temporary or seasonal position for the repair, touch up, painting, and erecting of 1/4", 3/8", 3/4", and 1" Miniature Circus collections. Must know how to set up and plan the layout display within the building. For more information contact the Personnel Office at Benson's Animal Park, 27 Kimball Hill Road, Hudson, NH 03051 603-882-2481.

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLICATION

In 1976, we published Annals of the American Circus, 1793-1829. Now, we come before you with a successor volume which covers the years 1830-1847. This monstrous work  $(5^{1/4}" \times 8^{1/2}")$ , the result of seven years spent burrowing in the collections of 140 libraries and historical societies, is offered as the absolute only one of its kind. Never before seen on land or in the sky. It consists of 154 pages of narrative and 205 pages of appendix, combined in one mighty attraction. It fairly boggles the mind. In it is presented, for your approval, the salient history of 155-yes, 155—shows that trouped this great republic during those eighteen years. Great names of the past—Raymond & Waring; June, Titus, Angevine & Co.; Rockwell & Stone, and a host of others—parade here before your very eyes. Wondrous performers of a bygone age, such as Isaac Van Amburgh, Jacob Driesbach, Levi J. North and Richard Sands, are here shown in the full bloom of their lustrous careers. The fascinating chronicle of the one and only Zoological Institute is delineated here in a manner that would please even a novelty man. We have routes, we have rosters, we have programs; nothing has been spared to make them as complete as possible. See managers rise and fall, titles disappear, and dreams of glory be translated into hard money. Did I mention that there are over nine hundred names in the index? Order now, we may never see its like again.

ANNALS OF THE AMERICAN
CIRCUS, VOLUME II, 1830-1847
Paperback, 8 illustrations,
\$30.00, postpaid
Stuart Thayer
430 17th Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98112
(Edition limited to 250 copies)

# 

### MAJOR MUSEUM COLLECTION OF FAIRGROUND ART TO BE AUCTIONED IN THE SPRING-IMPORTANT CARROUSEL FIGURES SOUGHT

The Mystery Auction. It is with great pride that we are (partially) able to announce the news of our upcoming Spring '87 Fairground Art Auction. With apologies, we are unable to reveal the name at this time, but suffice it to say that the collection of vintage posters, ephemera, carrousel figures and other wonderful treasures will be coming from the museum considered to be the finest in the world in this field. Our follow-up advertisements—soon to be seen on these same pages—will reveal the full details.

**Exceptional Consignments Considered**. Although hundreds upon hundreds of items will be forthcoming from the museum, for the following categories, important consignments will be considered

> A Complete Carrousel Significant Carrousel Animals Circus Models

Rarely (if ever) has there been an opportunity to take part in an event as major as this is destined to be. If you are an owner of any of the above listed items, seriously consider speaking to us about the addition of your valuable property to this event. Allow us to explain the Guernsey method that has created virtually every world record for Fairground items in history. Why we are able to produce such events as our recent Fairground Sale that grossed two million dollars and set new highs for a complete carrousel, a carrousel horse and a variety of circus models. Why the previous record setting auctions of like matter were Guernsey events. Why such unique auctions as the contents of the S.S. United States (the world's largest auction), vintage racing cars and a quarter million Cuban cigars were all orchestrated by Guernsey's. And why museum after museum has selected Guernsey's as the auctioneer of choice

**Get excited.** If you are the proud owner of carrousel artifacts or circus models but necessity demands your consideration of a sale, trust Guernsey's to discreetly offer advice as to the maximization of the value of your possessions. Call. And if you are a collector of any aspect of Fairground Art, get excited! This sale will be wonderful. The cat's meow The best. (Please excuse our enthusiasm . . . but then again, we've seen the collection.) And we look forward to seeing vou there.

### **JERNSEY'S**

THE UNIQUE AT AUCTION

136 EAST 73RD STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021 212-794-2280

### Silvan-Drew Motorized Circus

by Joseph T. Bradbury
The 1929 Season
Part Two

The January 5, 1929 Billboard, the first issue after the New Year, carried a lengthy advertisement which read as follows: "Silvan-Drew Circus Want for 1929 tenting season. Open early in April.

"For the Advance—General contracting agent. Must know the East, be a close contractor capable of judging towns and able to secure lots the show can use Brigade Agent. Sober, hustling, all around biller who can handle men and get the show well billed. Bill-poster who can also lithograph for town car. Country Route Men who can get the showings.

"For the Big Show. Feature Acts—versatile Single Performers, Clowns who double concert or work come-ins. Prima Donna doing other acts. Preference to those with house cars. Domestic Animal Trainer to commence work March 1.

"Side Show Acts and features. Man to handle Pit Show, all day grinder. Must be a hustler who will get show up for early business. Lady to Run Ball Game, Candy Package Agent, Experienced butchers and novelty man. If you drink, stay away. Mention if you drive truck.

"Boss Canvasman. Assistant who is a good seat man. Side Show Boss Canvasman. Master Mechanic who can keep equipment up. Electrician to act as asst. mechanic. Will buy small gentle trained elephant, any animals or attractions suitable for Pet Show. Address Al F. Wheeler, Oxford, Pa."

It is noted that the show was trying to obtain a small elephant; however, as mentioned earlier, it is believed Silvan-Drew never had any kind of elephant during the years it was on the road

A week later the trade publications said that the LeVines had been re-engaged by Silvan-Drew to appear in the performance in 1929. Harry and Charlotte LeVine had their own vaudeville show playing the eastern shore of Maryland.

The January 19, 1929 Billboard reported that operations were well underway at the Silvan-Drew winterquarters at Asheboro, North Carolina. Bill Taylor was in charge of

the winter work and with a corps of mechanics was busy overhauling and putting into running condition all trucks of the outfit before they went into the paint shops. One of the three new cage bodies that were being built by a local wagon company had already been received and mounted on its new chassis. Manager Al F. Wheeler left for his Oxford, Pennsylvania office January 1, where he was busy booking people and attractions for the coming season. "Several new features will be introduced," the article continued, "in the big show program and will include a number of trained wild animal acts and a wild west concert." A final note said that Ed and Josie Simpson and Flossie LaBlanche were wintering in Asheboro. Pat Cornelius and Charlie Burgess were living at their houses in Greensboro and motoring to and from the quarters each day.

During the next few weeks the trade publications noted that William J. Cain would be general agent for Silvan-Drew. He had held various positions with Sun Bros. and Sparks circuses and later was contracting press agent with Wheeler Bros. It was also announced that the Wilson Family (George, Lillian, and little Dime) had signed for the coming season. Lillian would present her aerial number, George would handle domestic animal acts and Little Dime would be in clown alley. Charles A. Zerm, formerly with Christy Bros., signed to handle the No. 2 annex (pit show). It was said he would have a very classy outfit with a collection of rare animals as attractions.

Silvan-Drew advertised in the February 9, 1929 Billboard that it wanted a band leader with a good library of music who could cut it. Also needed were musicians for the big show band and an air calliope player doubling band. The advertisement wanted a boss canvasman and an assistant who was a good seat man. A sideshow boss canvasman was sought as was

Silvan-Drew Circus on the lot, Gauley Bridge, West Virginia, in 1927. Pfening Archives.

a master of transportation who was a mechanic.

As the winter weeks went by nearly every Billboard told of new people being signed for the coming season. Lawrence Cross, who last season had been a clown with Gentry Bros. and later joined Silvan-Drew after that show closed, would be the producing clown in 1929. He would also work the come-in. The come-in in those days was worked usually by a clown dressed in absurd drag very similar to that still seen in some shows to this day. Another announced clown signing by the show was Jimmy Carver, for his third season with Silvan-Drew.

The March 2, 1929 Billboard column, "Silvan-Drew Notes," said that assistant manager Jack Riddle, who had been conducting his dance hall at Poplar Bluff, Missouri, during the winter months, would close that establishment March 15, then go east to close several big advertising contracts that the show would carry in 1929. Annetta Riddle, who last season had been featured with her mother in the concert, would not tour but remain in school at Poplar Bluff. The LeVines were at home in Pikesville, Maryland, practicing several new stunts to be added to their carrying perch act. It would be the third season as sideshow manager for Harry Karsey, who would soon return to winter quarters. Bill Taylor had been at quarters all winter and had the mechanical work almost completed. Al F. Wheeler was expected in quarters about March 10.

The next week *Billboard* said that Al F. Wheeler would close his Oxford, Pennsylvania office March 4 and return to the Asheboro quarters. Silvan-Drew would open the season early in April in North Carolina, enlarged and improved in every department. It was also announced that the following would be with the advance: William J. Cain, general agent; Lee Wheeler, special agent; James R. Ramsey, in charge of advertising cars; L.H. Jones, Bennie Steward, and Burt Marshall, billers. Three trucks, an agent's car and nearly all special paper would be used. A concluding note said that Frank P. Meister would be the Silvan-



Drew bandleader. For several seasons he was band leader of Wheeler Bros. Meister would also handle the mail and Billboard distribution

The following week's Billboard noted that Al F. Wheeler was now at the Asheboro quarters. He had brought with him a shipment of wild animals purchased in New York. No details were given on the number and kind of animals. Other items in the report had it that general agent William J. Cain had the advance forces signed. James R. Ramsey would have charge of the advertising trucks. W.H. (Wingey) Sanders would again be in charge of the big top. He arrived in quarters March 7 with a fleet of new trucks, the bodies of which were built at the Wheeler quarters in Oxford, Pennsylvania. This statement is somewhat confusing The bodies were no doubt built in Asheboro as in Oxford only the executive office of Al F. was located. A final note said that Charles A. Zerm, in charge of the pit show for the coming season, would have some rare small animals.

The official Silvan-Drew roster for 1929 was printed in Billboard as follows: Al F. Wheeler, manager; Jack Riddle, assistant manager; Fred C. Markle, treasurer; A.S. Silvan, secretary (Author's note. This possibly was a relative of Andrew Wachter since he said the show's title was named for members of his family); Wm. J. Cain, general agent; Lee Wheeler, special agent; M.R. Cornelius, press agent back; Harry G. Karsey, manager sideshow; Harold Drew, equestrian director; Frank Belmont, general superintendent (Author's note. Who this was is not known, as Frank Belmont was an alias once used by Al F. Wheeler); Ed Simpson, superintendent privileges; Frank P. Meister, musical director; W.H. Sanders, superintendent canvas; Specs Norman, boss hostler (trucks); Joe Brown, superintendent commissary department; Ed Wertz, superintendent ring stock; Walter Jones, 24 hour agent; Bill Taylor, master mechanic; Manny Holt, superintendent animals; James R. Ramsey, manager advertising car No. 1; L.H. Jones, manager car No. 3; Jack Riddle, legal adjuster; Charles A. Zerm, announcer. L.H. Jones, listed as manager of car No. 3, had the brigade force on the Hunt show in 1928.

The April 6, 1929 Billboard carried an interesting article saying that "with only a few more weeks to go before the Silvan-Drew opening work in all departments is nearing completion. Master mechanic Bill Taylor has all trucks in perfect mechanical condition. Supt. of canvas W.H. Sanders has fitted all the new tents with new poles and added four lengths of seats. Slim Holt has completed several new truck bodies and Tom Irvin is putting the finishing touches of decorations to the last batch of trucks. General agent William J. Cain is already under way and the advertising trucks under direction of James R. Ramsey will commence billing next week. Assistant manager Jack Riddle has landed several season ads that the show will carry and is expected in winterquarters to assist in final arrangements for the opening. Ed and Josie Simpson in addition to doing their several acts in the sideshow will also operate several concessions on the midway. Sideshow manager Harry G. Karsey has completed an



Al F. Wheeler, taken about time he was manager of Silvan-Drew in 1928 and 1929. Author's collection.

elaborate living truck for use of his family. Others who have built living trucks during the winter are the LeVines, Jack Riddle, the Simpsons, and Al F. Wheeler. Opening day will be April 20 at Asheboro, N.C.

These living trucks mentioned in the article were of course the forerunners of today's motor homes. The living or caravan wagon as it was known on European circuses was always a tradition there. These wagons on both the Continent and the British Isles were often elaborately furnished and provided living accommodations for the circus performer or official. Although some U.S. overland shows in the days of equine power used living wagons, most put up their people overnight in inns. But with the coming of the completely motorized circuses in the mid and late 20's the so called living quarters vehicle came into its own. In the very early days both trucks and some crudely built trailers were used for this purpose. By the 1930's mostly trailers were utilized and this method was continued almost exclusively until after World War II when later the one unit motor home came to popularity. Nowadays on a motorized circus lot you see a goodly balance of both trailers and motor homes.

The same April 6, 1929 Billboard carried an advertisement in which the show wanted an aerial team doing several acts; a feature act for the big show; fast comedy acts; and versatile single performers. Also on the list were a domestic animal trainer, a strong cornet, and an electrician to act as assistant mechanic. An experienced seat man to also serve as assistant on the big top, a sideshow boss canvasman, a griddle man for the lunch stand, and one more fast stepping billposter who drove a truck were also wanted. Candy butchers who also drove were needed as well as sober workingmen in all departments. "Come on," the ad concluded, "we open here, April 20, Al F. Wheeler, Asheboro, N.C.

Prior to the opening Billboard carried several items of interest concerning Silvan-Drew. Big show band director Frank P. Meister had 12 pieces including an air calliope. A strong move on the part of manager Wheeler was the signing of Bert Wallace to direct the performance. He was formerly with Christy Bros. and Lee Bros. shows, and would handle several horse acts in addition to filling the post of equestrian director. Bert Wallace was a first class showman

An advertisement wanted to join on wire, a head cook and waiters (Harold Richart and Joe Brown wire), seat man as assistant on big top, sideshow boss canvasman, and one more experienced truck mechanic. Also needed were comedy and aerial acts for the big show. Earl Wright troupe, wire. The ad concluded with a pitch for wild west people who doubled band or other acts.

Silvan-Drew opened its 1929 season as planned, April 20, in Asheboro, North Carolina. After a Sunday off the next day the show moved on to Mount Airy, North Carolina, for performances April 22, then rapidly continued into Virginia to play Hillsville, Wytheville, and Marion. After Marion there are some gaps in the Isaac Marcks route sheets and the show is next reported to be in West Virginia playing Mount Hope and Ansted, but no dates are given. But on May 8 the show was in Keystone, West Virginia, which was followed by other dates in that state at Hemphill, Davy, English, Pineville, Glen Morrison, Mullens, Lexter, Pax, Rainelle, Lookout, Smithers, Clendennin, Spencer, Watson, and Glenville, the latter being played on May 31. During the remainder of April Billboard had but one short notice concerning the show. It mentioned that William J. Cain, general agent, was contracting 30 days ahead in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

News from the show dried up in the trade publications in May. During the entire month only two ads were run. The first wanted a feature act for the big show, a concert feature, clowns and fast comedy acts, one more fast stepping billposter who drove a Ford, a cornet player and other musicians. The ad continued wanting a man to handle the pit show, and an experienced circus cook. Joe Brown was asked to wire. Finally wanted were the seat man to also assist on the big top, and candy butchers. An all West Virginia route was given.

The second ad was looking for feature acts for the big show, especially fast comedy acts, also clowns who worked come-in, a strong clarinet and alto for the band, plus an experienced truck mechanic. Again a lengthy West Virginia route was given.

Finally the June 1, 1929 Billboard gave the first report for the show in the season. The article said that with good treatment from the weatherman Silvan-Drew had averaged good business in nearly all stands since the opening back on April 20. Virginia was good and West Virginia had run from fair to capacity in many stands. With practically all new truck equipment the bad mountain pulls had been made on time and without a single mishap.

The performance, under the direction of Bert Wallace, was running like clock-work and sending them out pleased, while Frank P. Meister's band furnished a musical program that was in itself a feature. Harry G. Karsey's side-show, with a strong line of attractions, was doing good business, and Ed Simpson's, with an excellent line of attractions, was doing a goodly share of business. Tommy Green was master of transportation, Bill Taylor, master mechanic, W.H. Sanders, superintendent of all canvas, Walter Jones, purchasing agent, and Mrs. Jones had charge of the candy stands.

During the first week in June the show continued in West Virginia, playing Wellsbury and Cameron, and on the 3rd was at Farmington and the 4th at Hundred. On June 5 the route took it into Pennsylvania at Rogersville, which was followed by Waynesburg, Masontown, Fairchange, and Dunbar, the latter played on June 10. On the 13th the show was in Ohio at Wellsville, then Salinesville and Letonia. The route then becomes spotty with a few additional Ohio stands listed but no dates. These were Steubenville, Newton Falls, Warren, and Andover. On June 21 the show was in Pennsylvania at Conneaut Lake.

The June 8, 1929 Billboard said that while the show had encountered some rain it had come at times so as not to interfere with business. Night houses had been capacity at nearly all stands with average matinees. At Smithers, West Virginia, Dr. Jim Davidson visited. His circus, Drake Bros., was showing in this section. "Jeanette Karsev who has been out of the program on account of a fall was able to resume work at Clendenim, W. Va. A new dining tent and new dressing room tent were received the past week and a new marquee and another middle for the sideshow is due to reach the show soon. After leaving West Virginia, another middle will be added to the big top and several additions made to the big show program for the northern tour. The M.L. Clark & Sons shows have followed Silvan-Drew into many of the Virginia stands and report good business. The shows general agent paid a visit to the lot at Ansted, W. Va."

News from the show in the trade publications was flowing better now and a week later it was printed that "with ideal circus weather last weeks business with Silvan-Drew was of the pleasing kind, nearly all night houses being capacity. Jack Riddle, assistant manager and advertising banner man, has an automobile show in nearly every town with a big lineup of cars in parade daily. Lee Wheeler, treasurer, is a busy man early and late, not only handling the wagon but assisting in many other ways around the front. Several recent visitors came from the Rubin & Cherry Shows (large railroad carnival). T.S. Lockhart joined Silvan-Drew at Cameron, W. Va. replacing Dannie Stewart, who closed to open with the Walker Bringing Up Father company. L.H. Jones, in charge of the No. 2 car, has been doing some heavy billing the last two weeks."

The same *Billboard* also noted that Drake Bros. Circus, owned by Dr. Jim Davidson, opened at Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, May 27. The show used 18 new 1½ ton trucks. The big top was a 70 with two 30 ft. middles. Davidson formerly operated Davidson Bros. Circus. Drake Bros. was playing in the same general area as Silvan-Drew and was a very similar show.

After moving into Pennsylvania the Marcks route lists only one other date, Cambridge Springs, which followed Conneaut Lake. On June 24 the show went into New York at Randolph, then played Ellicottsville, Franklinville, Pike, Arcade and Attica which was the final stand in the month. On July 1, still in New York, the show was in Avon, then played Victor, Phelps, and on the big Independent.

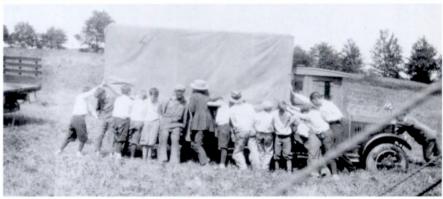
dence Day holiday was at Sodus. The route remained in New York state from then on until mid August.

The June 22, 1929 Billboard gave a nice report on the show. The advance was listed noting that Wm. J. Cain was still general agent; James R. Ramsey, brigade agent; L.H. Jones was in charge of advertising cars. Harry Wiles was lithographer and handling the brushes were S. Lockhart, Jim Kellogg and F. Connery. Three trucks and the agent's coupe were currently being used. Other notes said that the states of West Virginia and Ohio had favored the show with very satisfactory business the last two weeks. At Farmington, West Virginia, the show was visited by W.C. Richard and wife, owner of Richards Bros. Circus (overland) and the following day manager Wheeler and others visited the Richards show at Rogersville, West Virginia. Final notes said that Frank P. Meister now had a total of 11 men in the band and Harry G. Karsey had a new banner front for the sideshow. Business in his department had been very good. The same issue said that the Rose Killian Show moving on 10 trucks and 4 wagons was in Virginia doing good business.

roll on good roads with early arrivals being the rule. Sideshow manager Harry G. Karsey was proud of a new banner front received at Leetonia, Ohio. The sideshow business of late was good. A new marquee for the big top was also received in Leetonia. Another note said that equestrian director Bert Wallace was proud of his new dressing room tent. It was reported that all new wardrobe had been ordered for the spec as well as band uniforms. Al Wheeler and Jack Riddle had been busy lately entertaining visitors and show fans.

In an advertisement the show wanted candy butchers, an experienced candy package man, and a novelty man "who can stand prosperity." A second ad coming the following week put the show needs as billposters "who drive trucks and can get the showings."

In July news again became scarce in *Bill-board*. It was mentioned that Tommy Green was now superintendent of transportation, and a photo of Al F. Wheeler was published in the July 6, 1929 issue but no other news. The following week a note said that Walter Jones was a busy man on the show serving as purchasing agent and playing drums in the band. Tom P. Lynch was playing the air calliope and



Show personnel aided by local boys push a truck mired in the mud on the Silvan-Drew lot, probably 1927. Pfening Archives.

Silvan-Drew still needed personnel. An advertisement said that on account of enlarging the show, an aerial team doing several acts, single performers, clowns, and a fast comedy acrobatic act were wanted immediately. A come-in worker doubling clowning was wanted as were wild west people with own stock and trucks, a concert feature, and a circus cook. Promised were low, sure salaries, and a long season. A route giving Pennsylvania and New York stands was included.

The June 29, 1929 Billboard advised that with ideal weather the Silvan-Drew closing stands in Ohio favored the show with very satisfactory business, especially at night, when capacity houses were the rule. At Newton Falls, Ohio, the show had a visit from John C. Smiley and family, his wife being Mabel Killian, of the Rose Killian Shows. Also while playing Newton Falls the Silvan-Drew lot was only ten miles from Hagenbeck-Wallace and many from the large railroad show visited that day. Nearly all of the show's spring itinerary had been in the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia and it was a relief to once more

received several flattering press notices on his concerts on the lot before the night show.

An ad coming in late July saw Silvan-Drew wanting a feature act for the big show, acrobatic clowns, a candy butcher, experienced waiters for the dining tent, and sober workingmen who could drive trucks.

A note of general interest came in the July 20, 1929 *Billboard* in which H.R. Brison of Brison Bros. Show (overland circus) wrote that West Virginia required all truck circuses doing business in that state to have West Virginia license plates. The so called "truck license wars" between various states were just beginning and would continue in places up until World War II and even after. A major "war" between Georgia and Ohio over tags and licensing procedures continued well into the 1950's.

It was now mid summer 1929. The new Herbert Hoover administration had been in power since early March and the overall good times the country had enjoyed for the past few years continued. Prohibition went on even though a thirsty man didn't have to look long for a drink. Hoover was a confirmed "dry" and his first lady, Miss Lou, served grape juice at official White House receptions. Al Smith had been a "wet" and some say this was another

nail in his coffin of defeat. He was just four years too early in his desire to end the noble experiment which had now resulted in the peak years for the gangland wars in Chicago and other areas over who would control the illegal booze. Circus business as well as that for all amusements continued strong in August 1929 with no hint whatsoever of what would hit the country a mere two months later on late October's Wall Street "Black Friday."

The Silvan-Drew route took the show into the lush resort areas of upstate New York where the prosperous visitors had money to spend. A number of shows knew the area and played it almost yearly. Al Wheeler was most familiar with the territory and had the show he managed playing all the spas where the Eastern big city folk liked to spend their to that department. The show has one more week in the summer resorts then crosses the Hudson River for a few stands in Connecticut.

According to the Marcks route, Rhinebeck was the final New York date. It was played August 12th, then there is a gap of two days before the show was at Sharon, Connecticut on the 15th. Other known dates in the state were at Cornwall Bridge, New Preston, and Greenwich. On August 23rd the show returned to New York at Mamaroneck on August 23 and what an important stand this was for latter day historians. Famed circus photographer E.J. Kelty showed up that day and took a number of shots on the lot of the equipment and personnel. Fortunately we have two of these to illustrate this article. Several other New York stands followed and by August 28



Silvan-Drew on the lot, in 1927. Note parade vehicles in center foreground. Pfening Archives.

The August 3, 1929 Billboard said that Silvan-Drew spent the last week in the mountain resorts of the Catskills in New York state with ideal weather and satisfactory financial results. Visitors from the Hunt Circus included several from the family which owned it. It was noted the outfit was moving without a hitch under direction of master mechanic Charles M. Booker. The canvas was always up and ready on time under direction of W.H. (Wingey) Sanders; "the parade moves promptly at the advertised time," the article continued, "and Bert Wallace has the big show program running like clockwork and pleasing as evidenced by the favorable after-notices given in nearly every town. T.H. Green, former supt. of transportation, has been transferred to the advance, taking charge of the opposition brigade. Four vehicles and 8 men are now on the advance. The Seven American Arabs are putting on an act that is going over big."

Another good report on the show came in the August 17, 1929 Billboard. The major item was "that Harry and Myrna Karsey have left the show and are headed for New York city. En route they visited the Hunt and Drake Bros. Circuses. Later the Karseys go to Sarasota for a brief rest. They will not troupe any more this season owning to Mrs. Karsey's health. Pleasant weather and pleasingly profitable business has been the portion for Silvan-Drew for the last few weeks spent in the mountain resorts of the Catskills in New York. The parade of trucks is receiving their mid-summer coats of paint. The annex has been doing fine business. Prof. Planck, one man band and ventriloquist, is a late addition the show had moved over into New Jersey at Sussex. Next came Franklin Furnace, Succasunna, and on the last day of the month the show was in Hibernia.

The August 31, 1929 Billboard saw another ad wanting an aerial team to join immediately, also comedy acts, clowns, a strong cornet, a sideshow manager doing several acts, plus a man for Punch and Judy and magic. Candy butchers were needed as well as workingmen who drove trucks.

In early September it was learned that the Karseys didn't stay away from circus business long as they joined Hunt Circus which was playing in the New York-New Jersey area. Also playing close by was Barnett Bros.

At long last Billboard carried a major article on Silvan-Drew. It came in the September 14, 1929 issue and is so complete the entire piece is printed as it appeared.

"SILVAN-DREW SHOW HAVING BIG SEASON.

Hibernia, N.J. Sept. 7—The Silvan-Drew Circus here August 31 is the first circus to pitch its tents in this once prosperous mining town in 22 years. The last show was Al F. Wheeler's New Model Shows, 'Barnum' of the wagon shows at that time.

The Silvan-Drew organization had a perfectly good reason for playing this spot. It was breaking its jump into Pennsylvania, and William J. Cain, general agent, put the village on the map again for one day. Incidently it was

payday at the government arsenal and several of the remaining mines.

'The lot was well filled with circus enthusiasts, and the music of the National calliope, manipulated by Tom P. Lynch, resounded in the hills for miles around. Frank P. Meister's 10-piece circus band compares favorably with the best of 'em. Al F. Wheeler gave one of the most impressive discourses we ever listened to. He had no trouble making the tip and turned three-fourths of them at two bits each. Incidently the side show is yielding a nice weekly profit.

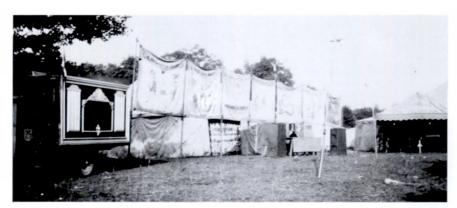
'The Silvan-Drew Circus is from Greensboro, N.C. where winter quarters are located. This is the fourth successful season and the show is fast forging to the front under the management of Al F. Wheeler. The organization consists of 80 people. In the back end are 20 performers. The show has encountered plenty of opposition in the East, and outside of several weeks in Ohio business has been uniformly good, and the gross business to date is one-third ahead of last year.

"In the caravan are 31 trucks, including privately owned cars. Since the season was inaugurated at Asheboro, N.C., April 20, the show has been in North Carolina, the Virginias, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and is now headed south. Average daily jumps are 25 to 30 miles. The daily parade is featured and makes a good flash. Towns from 5,000 to 10,000 population yield the best business.

'The big show's program is given in two rings, under an 80 foot top with two 40's, and opens with a spec, titled 'Our American Girl.' Display No. 1: Trained ponies, worked by Jack Riddle and Bert Wallace. No. 2: Single trap acts by Jeanette Wallace and Hazel Damm. No. 3: Contingent of joeys, Lawrence Cross, Jimmy Carver and brother, Arthur Melvin and Adam Damm, Paul Coley. No. 4: Riding goats, dogs, and monkeys, by Riddle and Wallace. No. 5: Clown number. No. 6: The LeVines double trap act. No. 7: Swinging ladders, by Florence Riddle and Jeanette Wallace. No. 8: Swinging perch, by Florence Riddle. No. 10: Novelty ring act, by Brothers Damm. No. 11: Trained goats, worked by Jimmy Carver and Paul Coley. No. 12: Clown number. No. 13: Trained dogs by the Le Vines. No. 14: Clown number. No. 15: Iron jaw number, worked by Florence Riddle and Charlotte Le Vine, the latter doing the loop-the-loop. No. 16: Comedy acrobatic act, featuring the Damm Brothers. No. 17: Clown number. No. 18: High school and menage horses, worked by Bert and Jeanette Wallace. No. 19: Clown number. No. 20: Carrying perch, worked by the Le Vines. No. 21: Six American Arabian acrobats. No. 22: Military pony drill, which is the final number, worked by Jeanette Wallace. Equestrian Director Bert Wallace keeps both rings working advantageously.

'The side show with 50 foot top and two 30's is managed by Ed Simpson with T.H. Green on the ticket box. Attractions consist of Ed and Josie Simpson, mind readers and magic; Prof. Planck, ventriloguist and musical act, and Belmont's Chinese mystery. Four cages of animals are displayed. Mrs. Walter Jones operates the candy stand.

"Bandmaster Frank P. Meister, who is also



the *Billboard* agent, has the following lineup: Cornets, Bert Proctor, Bill Taylor, and Harry Le Vine; trombones, George Cooper and Tom Lynch; clarinet, Harvey Strickler; baritone, Jesse Wright; tuba, Charles C. Smith; alto, J.C. Keyle; drums, Walter Jones.

"Executive staff is made up of Al F. Wheeler, general manager; Jack Riddle, assistant manager and legal adjuster; Lee Wheeler, treasurer; William J. Cain, general agent; T.H. Green, custodian of the front door; L.H. Jones, brigade agent; Mrs. Al F. Wheeler, in charge of reserved seats, Joe Brown, steward; W.H. Sanders, supt. of canvas; Charles M. Brooker, master mechanic, and Bill Taylor, electrician."

It is interesting to note that Andrew Wachter's name was not mentioned in any way during the above review, nor did it appear in the general roster published back in March; in fact, during 1929 the owner's name doesn't seem to be mentioned any place in the trade publications. He elected to remain completely in the background after having turned the management of the show over to Al F. Wheeler.

On September 2nd the show moved into Pennsylvania to play Pen Argyl which was followed the next day by Mauch Chunk. Tower City was played, according to the Marcks route, but we don't have the date. On September 12th, the show was at Milroy, then came Silvan-Drew sideshow on the lot, 1927. Note the air calliope truck parked at the front of the midway (in left foreground) where concerts were given to draw the natives to the lot. Pfening Archives.

Mapleton, Orbisonia, a Sunday off, then McConnellsburg on the 16th. There are a couple of missing stands but the two final dates in the Keystone State came September 19th and 20th at Cairnwood and Myersdale. Maryland was crossed in two stands, Grantsville and Friendsville, then there was a return to West Virginia, which saw so much of Silvan-Drew earlier in the season, for engagements at Elk Garden on September 26th and Keyser and Romney on succeeding days. A few "missing" stands come next until the route has the show again in Virginia at Shenandoah on October 3rd.

In mid September the show was still put-

Silvan-Drew Motorized Circus on the lot at Mamaroneck, New York, August 23, 1929. On left of midway is the main sideshow-menagerie while on opposite side are concession stands, No. 2 pit show, and ball game (carnival type concession). Big top is in center background. Note example of early motor home in left foreground. Photo by Century (E.J. Kelty). Joe Bradbury Collection.

ting "want ads" in the trade publications, the latest seeking a party to run the ball game on the midway, candy butchers, sideshow acts, and slide trombone and clarinet players for the big show band. The ad concluded by offering for sale a lunch stand with swell equipment. An all Pennsylvania route was run.

The September 21, 1929 Billboard advised that New Jersey and Pennsylvania "have given the show satisfactory business for the last two weeks with capacity night houses being the rule. Harry F. Strickler, clarinetist with the band resigned at Tower City, Pa. to accept a winter engagement in Reading, Pa. Jesse R. Wright is spending his spare time decorating the parade trucks for the southern tour. At present the trucks present a more attractive appearance than they did even when the show opened. Two capacity houses came in Pen Argyl, Pa. on Labor Day." The article concluded by mentioning that after one more week in Pennsylvania the show would head for Dixie and a long season.

In late September it was announced that Oklahoma Jerry and Viola Burrows had left the Christy Bros. Circus at Huntington, Pennsylvania, and joined the wild west contingent on Silvan-Drew. Throughout the season little or nothing was said concerning the aftershow or concert on the show, other than it was on the traditional wild West theme common to circuses, large and small, in those days.

After Shenandoah the show continued in Virginia, playing Standardsville the next day and following with Louisa, and Scottsville, on October 6th. Other known dates during the swing through the Old Dominion were Keysville, Drakes Bridge, Kenbridge, Waverly, and Boykins. After Boykins the show entered North Carolina at Galesburg on October 18th.

On the 19th the show was in South Mills, North Carolina, then come a few missing dates and next it was reported at Princess Anne, Virginia, on October 23. There is some confusion on the final few days played during the season. According to Marcks the show played Lynnhaven, Virginia, with no date



given, but the final two stands were in Moyock and Hertford, North Carolina, on October 25th and 26th. The confusion comes in an article appearing in the October 26, 1929 Billboard which stated that Silvan-Drew Circus "will close a highly successful season of 28 weeks at Lynnhaven, Va., October 26. The season's itinerary has covered 9 states with a total mileage of more than 5,000. As yet Manager A.F. Wheeler has not announced his plans for 1930 but it is understood the show will be greatly enlarged and improved for its next season's tour." Regardless of the site of the final stand the show then moved into quarters at the fairgrounds in Greensboro, North Carolina. At this time there was absolutely no hint that anything was wrong. So far

RECEIVERS NOTICE. To all persons holding claims against Silvan-Drew Inc. this is to notify you that all claims must be in my hands on or before December 16, 1929 or this notice will be Plead in Bar of their recovery. O.W. Patterson, Receiver., Box 182, Greensboro, N.C.

as the circus world knew from reading reports in the trade publications the show had just concluded a very successful season and was planning on going out again as usual in 1930.

In the meantime Gentry Bros. Circus, the 15 car show owned by Floyd and Howard King, closed at Paris, Tennessee, on account of bad business and inclement weather. Shortly afterward it was announced Gentry Bros. was broke and would be sold at auction on November 9th at the Paris fairgrounds. There had been only one other major circus failure during the 1929 season, that of the 15 car Buck Jones Wild West Show which folded in mid-summer. The Jones problems were more complex than just a combination of bad weather and business.

Coming in late October about the same time as the folding of Gentry Bros. and Silvan-Drew was the news of Black Friday, the day the Wall Street stock market collapsed. The stock market fiasco was the start of the Great Depression, but at the time it occurred it was not evident that would be the case. The 1929 circus season had been considered good by all except a few shows. Certainly no showman, not even the shrewdest, John Ringling, suspected what was coming. Just a few weeks earlier, back on September 2nd, Ringling had gone heavily in debt to purchase the five operating circuses of the American Circus Corporation, Sells-Floto, Hagenbeck-Wallace, Al G. Barnes, John Robinson, and Sparks.

The November 9, 1929 Billboard reported that Al F. Wheeler had severed his connection with Silvan-Drew and would put out the Al F. Wheeler New Model Shows next season.

Still there was not the slightest hint in the trade publications that the Silvan-Drew show was finished. It was not until this advertisement appeared in the November 23, 1929 Billboard that the true story was made known.

'FOR SALE AT AUCTION. Silvan-Drew Circus at Fair Grounds in Greensboro, N.C. on December 14, 1929 at 11 o'clock. For cash to highest bidder, unless sold at private sale before December 14, as a whole or in lots to suit purchaser. Horses, trucks, ponies, tents, light plant, calliope and necessary equipment for operation. This is sold subject to approval of

### SILVAN-DREW CIRCUS

COMPLIMENTARY

ADMIT COMPLIMENTS OF

Examples of tickets used by Silvan-Drew Circus. Included are those for the main performance, aftershow, and complimentary passes. Pfening Archives.

Court. O.W. Patterson, Receiver. Office at Elks Club, Greensboro, N.C.

Also in the same issue was the following: A couple of weeks later it was announced that Al F. Wheeler and Jethro Almond were planning a new show for 1930 to be known as Al F. Wheeler's New Model Shows. It would have new canvas, in fact most of the equipment would be new, and it would travel on 30 trucks. Winterquarters had been established at Albemarle, North Carolina; however, Wheeler would work out of his Oxford, Pennsylvania office for the time being. It was noted that William J. Cain, who had been with Silvan-Drew in 1929, would be general agent.

The December 28, 1929 Billboard had an advertisement for the new Wheeler show wanting personnel, bosses, and performers. It was planned to open in North Carolina in April, 1930.

Nothing further appeared concerning the Silvan-Drew sale. Usually these are covered in detail by Billboard but not this time. Finally, the January 4, 1930 Billboard had an article which told about the equipment being assembled at the Albemarle, North Carolina winterquarters for the new Al F. Wheeler's New Model Shows. It said that on hand was the en-

Silvan-Drew set up on the lot, 1927. In center foreground is the main sideshowmenagerie tent with big top in back. Note parade vehicles at right. Pfening Archives.

tire equipment of the Jethro Almond Show plus equipment brought in by Al F. Wheeler himself. An interesting note was that a large amount of the property was that recently purchased at the Silvan-Drew sale, which included all of that show's trained animal acts. The article concluded by saying that all new canvas was planned for Wheeler and Almond's new show and that two more trailer cages were being built which would give the show a 7 cage menagerie.

It is strongly suspected by the author that Wheeler and Almond bought the bulk of the Silvan-Drew plunder.

What did happen to cause the sudden receivership and sale of the show's assets by the court? Unfortunately, the only two men who had that information have long ago passed on-Andrew Wachter and Al F. Wheeler. It is obvious the parent company, Silvan-Drew Inc., owed funds it could not pay. These debts were probably for equipment as during the last season on tour the show was constantly getting new tentage, banners, uniforms, and making other improvements. Possibly some of these debts were long standing, we just don't know. It could be that the last few weeks of the season were so sour it broke the show. Or it could be the reports claiming good business for most of the season were inaccurate. There is another possibility and long time students of circus history no doubt have already suspected it, but they must draw their own conclusions as the author will not hint of it since at this time there is no reason to suggest there were any kind of irregularities going on. Had there been, old troupers who claimed to





be all knowing in such matters would long ago have spread their rumors.

Actually Wachter never discussed in public or in his writings the details or reasons for the demise of his show. As mentioned earlier he later became a circus model builder and served as a director of the Circus Historical Society. So far as we know he never had any other dealings in circus business after Silvan-Drew closed in 1929. The full title has never been used again although at times through the years there have been reports of a Silvan Bros. show which was in no way connected with Wachter.

Some months ago the author contacted CHS member Cam Cridlebaugh and requested he check in the Greensboro, North Carolina area to see if any relatives of Wachter could be located. He located Wachter's brother-inlaw, who promised to see if he could find any family photographs and also promised to write down his recollections of the show. He was given an extensive questionnaire to guide him. Unfortunately, the brother-in-law died only a few weeks later and was unable to accomplish this task. It was doubtful he could furnish much "new" information because Wachter himself had said all of the records had been destroyed and he personally was looking for printed matter and artifacts of the show. The relative did say that Wachter traveled with the show; however, this is believed to have taken place only during the early days of the vaudeville show and later circus. It appears he was away from the show looking after his other business interests especially when Al Wheeler was the manager. We are still on the lookout for additional information and maybe in time the puzzle of the sudden receivership and sale of the show will be known. If and when "new" information is received it will be printed as a supplement.

This is the first time this author has given the full treatment to a small motorized show such as Silvan-Drew. In the past this has been reserved for the large or medium sized railroad shows. However, as noted in the beginning, these little truck shows hold their own unique fascination for some of us. Route nuts should marvel at the names of the small burgs played

by the show. Some can be found on present day maps, some cannot. CHS member Gordon Carver, who aided the author in the research, made a little survey of towns played by Silvan-Drew in 1928 and 1929 in his home state of New Jersey. From July 25-August 14, 1928, the show played 18 stands. The largest

Group photo of Silvan-Drew personnel on the lot at Mamaroneck, New York, August 23, 1929. In back are two parade trucks, a bandwagon on left, and air calliope on right. AI F. Wheeler, manager, is in front row center holding hat. To the immediate right are his wife, and son Lee. Note the Six American Arabs act in front row and the 9 member band standing on top of the parade trucks. Photo by Century (E.J. Kelty). Don Marcks Collection.

was 14,500, the smallest 700, with an average size of 4700. Carver notes, however, that many of the stands were summer resorts and would have a considerably larger population when the show played them. The average mileage between stands was 16 miles. In 1929 he surveyed four stands, the largest 3,400, the smallest 300, with average population being 1500. Average jump was 13 miles.

We are running the only known Silvan-Drew photos. These have been difficult to find. Surely there are more somewhere, including shots actually picturing the street parade in progress. If anyone has others not depicted here, or lithos not shown, they are invited to contact the author or *Bandwagon* editor on what they have. Perhaps these can be run later as a supplement.

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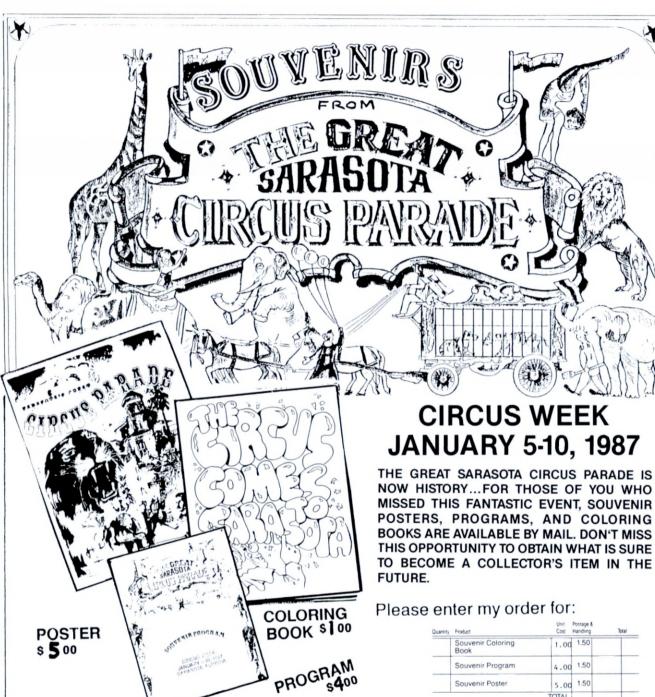
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